

PROMETHEUS BOUND

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ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ καὶ ΒΙΑ
ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ
ΧΟΡΟΣ ΩΚΕΑΝΙΔΩΝ
ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ
ΙΩ ΙΝΑΧΟΥ
ΕΡΜΗΣ

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

POWER and FORCE
HEPHAESTUS
PROMETHEUS
CHORUS of the Daughters of Oceanus
OCEANUS
Io, daughter of Inachus
HERMES

SCENE.—A rocky height, overlooking the ocean, in
the uttermost parts of Scythia.

TIME.—Mythical.

DATE.—Uncertain (the official statement is lost).

ARGUMENT

WHEN Cronus, the son of Uranus, was king in heaven, revolt against his rule arose among the gods. The Olympians strove to dethrone him in favour of Zeus, his son; the Titans, children of Uranus and Earth, championing the ancient order of violence, warred against Zeus and his partisans. Prometheus, himself a Titan, forewarned by his oracular mother Earth or Themis (for she bore either name) that the victory should be won by craft, whereas his brethren placed their sole reliance on brute force, rallied with her to the side of Zeus and secured his success. His triumph once assured, the new monarch of heaven proceeded forthwith to apportion to the gods their various functions and prerogatives; but the wretched race of man he purposed to annihilate and create another in its stead. This plan was frustrated by Prometheus, who, in compassion on their feebleness, showed them the use of fire, which he had stolen in their behoof, and taught them all arts and handicrafts. For this rebellion against the newly-founded sovereignty of Zeus, the friend of mankind was doomed to suffer chastisement—he must pass countless ages, riveted to a crag on the shores of Ocean in the trackless waste of Scythia.

But suffering of body or of mind might not quell his spirit, though he is possessed of the sad privilege of immortality. Conscious that he had erred, he is neverthe-

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less fortified by indignation that he had been made the victim of tyranny and ingratitude. Nor is he unprovided with a means to strengthen his resistance and to force the hand of his oppressor, whose despotic power has one point of attack. The Titan is possessed of a fateful secret which must be revealed to Zeus if he is not to be hurled from his dominion as his father had been before him. The despot contemplates marriage with Thetis, and should it be brought to pass, the son to be born to him is to prove mightier than his sire. This secret, told Prometheus by his mother, he will not disclose till, in the lapse of ages, Zeus consents to release him from his ignominious bonds; rather than part with it on other terms he defies the thunder and the lightning of the lord of Olympus and, amid the crashing world, is hurled to Tartarus, to the last protesting against the injustice of his doom.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ΔΕΣΜΩΤΗΣ

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

- Χθονὸς μὲν ἐς τηλουργὸν ἤκομεν πέδον,
Σκύθην ἐς οἶμον,¹ ἄβατον² εἰς ἐρημίαν.
Ἦφαιστε, σοὶ δὲ χρή μέλειν ἐπιστολὰς
5 αἷς σοι πατὴρ ἐφείτο, τόνδε πρὸς πέτραις
ὑψηλοκρήμυοις τὸν λεωργὸν ὀχμάσαι
ἀδαμαντίνων δεσμῶν ἐν ἀρρήκτοις πέδαις.³
τὸ σὸν γὰρ ἄνθος, παντέχνου πυρὸς σέλας,
θνητοῖσι κλέψας ὥπασεν· τοιαῦδέ τοι
ἀμαρτίας σφε δεῖ θεοῖς δοῦναι δίκην,
10 ὥς ἂν διδαχθῇ τὴν Διὸς τυραννίδα
στέργειν, φιλανθρώπου δὲ παύεσθαι τρόπον.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

- Κράτος Βία τε, σφῶν μὲν ἐντολή Διὸς
ἔχει τέλος δὴ κοῦδέν ἐμποδὼν ἔτι·
ἐγὼ δ' ἄτολμός εἰμι συγγενῇ θεὸν
15 δῆσαι βία φάραγγι πρὸς⁴ δυσχειμέρῳ.

¹ οἶμον M, οἶμον recs.

² ἄβατον mss. (ἄβατόν τ' M) schol. Rav. Arist. *Ran.* 814, ἄβροτον schol. BV Hom. Ξ 78, schol. Ven. *Ran.* 814.

³ ἀδαμαντίναις πέδησιν . . . πέτραις M, ἀδαμαντίναις (-νοῖς, -νης) πέδησιν (-ησι, -ησι, -αῖσιν) recs., ἐν omit. in many recs.,

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[*Enter Power and Force, bringing with them
Prometheus captive; also Hephaestus*]

POWER

To earth's remotest confines we are come, to the Scythian tract, an untrodden solitude. And now, Hephaestus, thine is the charge to observe the mandates laid upon thee by the Father—to clamp this miscreant upon the high-beetling crags in shackles of binding adamant that cannot be broken. For thine own pride, even flashing fire, source of all arts, he hath purloined and bestowed upon mortal creatures. Such is his offence; wherefore he is bound to make requital to the gods, that so he may be lessoned to brook the sovereignty of Zeus and forbear his championship of man.

HEPHAESTUS

Power and Force, for you indeed the behest of Zeus is now fulfilled, and naught remains to stay you. But for me—I cannot nerve myself to bind amain a kindred god upon this rocky cleft assailed by

πέτρας some recs.: ἀδαμαντίνων δεσμῶν . . . πέδας schol.
Rav. Arist. *Ran.* 814.

⁴ τῇ M, πρὸς superscribed.

AESCHYLUS

πάντως δ' ἀνάγκη τῶνδ' ἐμοὶ τόλμαν σχεθεῖν·¹
ἐξωριάζειν γὰρ πατρὸς λόγους βαρὺ.

τῆς ὀρθοβούλου Θέμιδος αἰπυμήτα παῖ,
ἄκοντά σ' ἄκων δυσλύτοις χαλκεύμασι
20 προσπασσαλεύσω τῷδ' ἀπανθρώπῳ πάγῳ²
ἔν' οὔτε φωνὴν οὔτε του μορφὴν βροτῶν
ᾔψει, σταθευτὸς δ' ἡλίου φοίβῃ φλογὶ
χροιάς ἀμείψεις ἄνθος· ἀσμένῳ δέ σοι
ἢ ποικιλείμων νύξ ἀποκρύψει φάος,
25 πάχνην θ' ἑώαν ἥλιος σκεδᾷ πάλιν·
αἰεὶ³ δὲ τοῦ παρόντος ἀχθηδὼν κακοῦ
τρύσει σ'· ὁ λωφήσων γὰρ οὐ πέφυκ' ἐγώ.

τοιαῦτ' ἐπηύρω⁴ τοῦ φιλανθρώπου τρόπου.
θεὸς θεῶν γὰρ οὐχ ὑποπτήσων χόλον
30 βροτοῖσι τιμὰς ὥπασας πέρα δίκης.
ἀνθ' ὧν ἀτερπῇ τήνδε φρουρήσεις πέτραν
ὀρθοστάδην, ἄυπνος, οὐ κάμπτων γόνυ·
πολλοὺς δ' ὀδυρμούς καὶ γόους ἀνωφελεῖς
φθέγξῃ· Διὸς γὰρ δυσπαραίτητοι φρένες·
35 ἅπας δὲ τραχὺς ὅστις ἂν νέον κρατῇ.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

εἶεν,⁵ τί μέλλεις καὶ κατοικτίζῃ⁶ μάτην;
τί τὸν θεοῖς ἔχθιστον οὐ στυγεῖς θεόν,
ὅστις τὸ σὸν θνητοῖσι προὔδωκεν γέρας;

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

τὸ συγγενές τοι δεινὸν ἢ θ' ὁμιλία.

¹ σχεθεῖν : Elmsley.

³ αἰεὶ PV.

² τόπῳ M, πάγῳ recc.

⁴ ἐπηύρω M, ἀπηύρω other mss.

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cruel winter. Yet, come what may, I am constrained to summon courage to this deed; for 'tis perilous to disregard the commandments of the Father.

Lofty-minded son of Themis who counselleth aright, against my will, no less than thine, I must rivet thee with brazen bonds no hand can loose to this desolate crag, where nor voice nor form of mortal man shall meet thy ken; but, scorched by the sun's bright beams, thou shalt lose the fair bloom of thy flesh. And glad shalt thou be when spangled-robed night shall veil his brightness and when the sun shall scatter again the rime of morn. Evermore the burthen of thy present ill shall wear thee out; for thy deliverer is not yet born.

Such guerdon hast thou gained from thy championship of man. For, god though thou art, thou didst not quail before the wrath of the gods, but didst bestow honours upon mortal creatures beyond their due. Wherefore on this joyless rock thou must stand sentinel, erect, sleepless, thy knee unbent. And many a groan and unavailing lament thou shalt utter; for the heart of Zeus is obdurate, and everyone is harsh whose power is new.

POWER

Well, why dally and vent in vain thy pity? Why dost thou not detest a god most hateful to the gods, since he hath betrayed thy prerogative to mortals?

HEPHAESTUS

A strangely potent tie is kinship—and companionship as well.

³ εἶν M.

⁶ κατοικτίζει M, κατοικτίσῃ recs.

AESCHYLUS

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

40 σύμφημ'· ἀνηκουστεῖν δὲ τῶν πατρὸς λόγων
οἶόν τε πῶς; οὐ τοῦτο δειμαίνεις πλέον;

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

αἰεὶ γέ¹ δὴ νηλῆς σὺ καὶ θράσους πλέως.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

ἄκος γὰρ οὐδὲν τόνδε θρηνεῖσθαι· σὺ δὲ
τὰ μηδὲν ὠφελοῦντα μὴ πόνει μάτην.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

45 ὦ πολλὰ μισηθεῖσα χειρωναξία.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

τί νιν στυγεῖς; πόνων γὰρ ὡς ἀπλῶ λόγῳ
τῶν νῦν παρόντων οὐδὲν αἰτία τέχνη.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

ἔμπας τις αὐτὴν ἄλλος ὥφελεν λαχεῖν.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

50 ἅπαντ' ἐπαχθῇ² πλήν θεοῖσι κοιρανεῖν·
ἐλεύθερος γὰρ οὔτις ἐστὶ πλήν Διός.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

ἔγνωκα τοῖσδε κοῦδὲν ἀντειπεῖν ἔχω.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

οὐκουν ἐπείξῃ τῷδε δεσμὰ³ περιβαλεῖν,
ὥς μή σ' ἐλινύοντα προσδερχθῇ πατήρ;

¹ τε M, γε QKN, τι recc.

² ἐπράχθη: Stanley.

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POWER

I grant it; yet to refuse to obey the commands of the Father—is this possible? Hast thou not still greater fear of that?

HEPHAESTUS

Aye, thou art ever pitiless and steeped in insolence.

POWER

Aye, for it boots naught to bemoan this fellow. Have done with losing thy labour at a task unprofitable.

HEPHAESTUS

Oh handicraft that I have learned so much to loathe!

POWER

Why hate it? Since in good truth thy craft is in no wise to blame for these present troubles.

HEPHAESTUS

Nevertheless, would that it had fallen to another's lot!

POWER

Each office has its burthen except to be lord of heaven; for none is free save only Zeus.

HEPHAESTUS

I have realized it by this sight here; gainsay it I cannot.

POWER

Haste thee then to cast the fetters about him, lest the Father behold thee loitering.

³ τῶδε δεσμὰ M, δεσμὰ τῶδε recs.

AESCHYLUS

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

καὶ δὴ πρόχειρα ψάλια¹ δέρκεσθαι πάρα.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

55 βαλὼν² νιν ἀμφὶ χερσὶν ἐγκρατεῖ σθένει
 ῥαιστῆρι θεῖνε, πασσάλειν πρὸς πέτραις.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

περαίνεται δὴ κοῦ ματᾶ τοῦργον τόδε.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

ἄρασσε μᾶλλον, σφίγγε, μηδαμῇ χάλα.
 δεινὸς γὰρ εὐρεῖν κάξ ἀμηχάνων πόρον.³

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

60 ἄραρεν ἥδε γ' ὠλένη δυσεκλύτως.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

καὶ τήνδε νῦν πόρπασον ἀσφαλῶς, ἵνα
 μάθῃ σοφιστῆς ὦν Διὸς νωθέστερος.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

πλὴν τοῦδ' ἂν οὐδεὶς ἐνδίκως μέμψαιτό μοι.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

65 ἀδαμαντίνου νῦν σφηνὸς αὐθάδη γνάθον
 στέρνων διαμπᾶξ πασσάλειν' ἐρρωμένως.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

αἰαῖ, Προμηθεῦ, σὼν ὑπερστένω⁴ πόνων.

¹ ψάλια M, ψάλλια recc., ψέλια recc. ² λαβῶν: Stanley.
³ πόρον mss. (πόρους Porson from schol. Arist. *Eq.* 756).

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HEPHAESTUS

Well, there then! The bracelets are ready, as thou mayest see.

POWER

Cast them about his wrists and with might and main smite with thy hammer; rivet him to the rocks.

HEPHAESTUS

There! The work is getting on and is not done amiss.

POWER

Strike harder, clamp him tight, leave nothing loose; for he is wondrous clever at finding a way even out of desperate straits.

HEPHAESTUS

This arm, at least, is fixed beyond all loosening.

POWER

Now rivet this one too and securely, that he may learn, for all his cleverness, that he is but a dullard compared to Zeus.

HEPHAESTUS

None but he could justly blame my work.

POWER

Now straight through his chest drive the adamantine wedge's stubborn edge with thy full force.

HEPHAESTUS

Alas, Prometheus, I groan over thy pangs.

⁴ ὑποστένω M, ὑπερστένω m.

AESCHYLUS

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

σὺ δ' αὖ κατοκνεῖς τῶν Διός τ' ἐχθρῶν ὕπερ
στένεις; ὅπως μὴ σαντὸν οἰκτιεῖς ποτε.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

ὄρῳς θέαμα δυσθέατον ὄμμασιν.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

70 ὄρῳ κυροῦντα τόνδε¹ τῶν ἐπαξίων.
ἀλλ' ἀμφὶ πλευραῖς μασχαλιστήρας βάλε.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

δρᾶν ταῦτ' ἀνάγκη, μηδὲν ἐγκέλευ' ἄγαν.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

ἦ μὴν κελεύσω κἀπιθούξω γε πρὸς.
χώρει κάτω, σκέλη δὲ κίρκωσον βίᾳ.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

75 καὶ δὴ πέπρακται τοὔργον οὐ μακρῷ πόνῳ.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

ἐρρωμένως νῦν θεῖνε διατόρους πέδας
ὥς οὐπιτιμητῆς γε² τῶν ἔργων βαρὺς.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

ὅμοια μορφῇ γλῶσσά σου γηρύεται.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

80 σὺ μαλθακίζου, τὴν δ' ἐμὴν αὐθαδίαν
ὀργῆς τε τραχύτητα³ μὴ' πίπλησέ μοι.

¹ τῶνδε M, τόνδε m.

² σε M, γε σε B, γε m¹ recce

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POWER

What! Shrinking again and groaning over the foes of Zeus? Look to it lest the day come when thou shalt grieve for thyself.

HEPHAESTUS

Thou seest a spectacle grievous for eyes to behold.

POWER

I see this fellow getting his deserts. Come, cast the girths about his sides.

HEPHAESTUS

Do this I must; spare me thy needless ordering.

POWER

Of a truth, I'll order thee, aye and more—I'll hound thee on. Get thee down below, and ring his legs by force.

HEPHAESTUS

There now! The work's done and with no long labour.

POWER

Now hammer the galling fetters with thy full force; for the appraiser of our work is severe.

HEPHAESTUS

The utterance of thy tongue matches thy face.

POWER

Play the woman an thou wilt, but cast not in my teeth my stubborn will and my relentless mood.

³ τραχύτητα M, θρασύτητα KRPγρ.

AESCHYLUS

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

στείχωμεν, ὥς κώλοισιν ἀμφίβληστρ' ἔχει.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

ἐνταῦθα νῦν ὕβριζε καὶ θεῶν γέρα
 συλῶν ἐφημέροισι προστίθει. τί σοι
 οἰοί τε θνητοὶ τῶνδ' ἀπαντλήσαι πόνων;
 85 ψευδωνύμως σε δαίμονες Προμηθέα
 καλοῦσιν· αὐτὸν γάρ σε δεῖ προμηθέως,
 ὅτῳ τρόπῳ τῇσδ' ἐκκυλισθήσῃ τέχνῃς.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ὦ διός¹ αἰθὴρ καὶ ταχύπτεροι πνοαί,
 ποταμῶν τε πηγαί, ποντίων τε κυμάτων
 90 ἀνήριθμον γέλασμα, παμμήτορ² τε γῆ,
 καὶ τὸν πανόπτην κύκλον ἡλίου καλῶ·
 ἴδεσθέ μ' οἷα πρὸς θεῶν πάσχω θεός.

δέρχθηθ' οἷαις αἰκείαισιν³
 διακναιόμενος τὸν μυριετῇ
 95 χρόνον ἀθλεύσω.
 τοιόνδ' ὁ νέος ταγὸς μακάρων
 ἐξήϋρ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ δεσμὸν αἰκῇ.
 φεῦ φεῦ, τὸ παρὸν τό τ' ἐπερχόμενον
 πῆμα στενάχω, πῇ⁴ ποτε μόχθων
 100 χρὴ τέρματα τῶνδ' ἐπιτεῖλαι.

καίτοι τί φημι; πάντα προυξεπίσταμαι
 σκεθρῶς τὰ μέλλοντ', οὐδέ μοι ποταίνιον

¹ διός M, διός QKN.

² παμμήτωρ M, παμμήτορ recc.

³ αἰκείαισι: Elmsley.

⁴ ποῖ and ποί M, ποῖ recc., πῇ N.

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HEPHAESTUS

Let us begone, since he has got the meshes on his limbs. [Exit

POWER

There now, indulge thy insolence, keep on wresting from the gods their honours to give them to creatures of a day. Are mortals able to lighten this thy load of woe? Falsely hight the gods call thee Prometheus,¹ for thou hast thyself need of one to take forethought how thou shalt extricate thyself from this handiwork. [Exeunt Power and Force

PROMETHEUS

O thou bright sky of heaven, ye swift-winged breezes, ye river-waters, and multitudinous laughter of the waves of ocean, O universal mother Earth, and thou, all-seeing orb of the sun, to you I call! Behold what I, a god, endure of evil from the gods.

Behold, with what shameful woes I am racked and must wrestle throughout the countless years of time apportioned me. Such is the ignominious bondage the new Commander of the Blessed hath contrived against me. Woe! Woe! For misery present and misery to come I groan, not knowing where it is fated deliverance from these woes shall dawn.

And yet, what do I say? All that is to be I know full well and in advance, nor shall any affliction

¹ Such etymologizing "play" (Pro-metheus, *Fore-thought*) was a serious matter to the Greeks, who found in the name of a person a significant indication of his nature or his fate. Unlike Shakespeare, Aeschylus saw nothing even half-humorous in such etymological analysis; and elsewhere, in playing on the names Apollo, Clytaemestra, Polymces, the *nomen* is an *omen*.

AESCHYLUS

105 πῆμ' οὐδὲν ἤξει. τὴν πεπρωμένην δὲ χρὴ
 αἶσαν φέρειν ὡς ῥᾶστα, γιννώσκονθ' ὅτι
 τὸ τῆς ἀνάγκης ἔστ' ἀδήριτον σθένος.
 ἀλλ' οὔτε σιγᾶν οὔτε μὴ σιγᾶν τύχας
 οἶόν τέ μοι τάσδ' ἐστί. θνητοῖς γὰρ γέρα
 πορῶν ἀνάγκαις ταῖσδ' ἐνέζευγμαι τάλας·
 110 ναρθηκοπλήρωτον δὲ θηρῶμαι πυρὸς
 πηγὴν κλοπαίαν, ἣ διδάσκαλος τέχνης
 πάσης βροτοῖς πέφηνε καὶ μέγας πόρος.
 τοιῶνδε¹ ποινὰς ἀμπλακημάτων τίνω
 ὑπαιθρίοις² δεσμοῖς πεπασσαλευμένος.³

ᾄ ᾄ ἔα ἔα.
 115 τίς ἀχώ, τίς ὁδμὰ προσέπτα μ' ἀφεγγής,
 θεόσυτος,⁴ ἢ βρότειος, ἢ κεκραμένη;
 ἔκετο τερμόνιον ἐπὶ πάγον
 πόνων ἐμῶν⁵ θεωρός, ἢ τί δὴ θέλων;
 ὁρᾶτε δεσμώτην με δύσποτμον θεόν,
 120 τὸν Διὸς ἐχθρόν, τὸν πᾶσι θεοῖς
 δι' ἀπεχθείας ἐλθόνθ' ὁπόσοι
 τὴν Διὸς αὐλὴν εἰσοιχνεύσιν,
 διὰ τὴν λῖαν φιλότητα βροτῶν.
 φεῦ φεῦ, τί ποτ' αὖ κινάθισμα κλύω
 125 πέλας οἰωνῶν; αἰθὴρ δ' ἐλαφραῖς
 πτερύγων ῥιπαῖς ὑποσυρίζει.
 πᾶν μοι φοβερὸν τὸ προσέρπον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μηδὲν φοβηθῆς· φιλία
 γὰρ ᾄδε⁶ τάξις πτερύγων
 θοαῖς ἀμίλλαις προσέβα
 130 τόνδε πάγον, πατρώας
 μόγισ παρειποῦσα φρένας.

[στρ. α.

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come upon me unforeseen. My allotted doom I needs must bear as lightly as I may, knowing that the might of Necessity brooketh no resistance. Yet to be silent or not silent about this my fate is beyond my power. For it is because I bestowed good gifts on mortals that this yoke of constraint hath been bound upon me to my misery. I hunted out and stored in fennel stalk the stolen source of fire that hath proved to mortals a teacher in every art and a means to mighty ends. Such is the offence for which I pay the penalty, riveted in fetters beneath the open sky.

Ha! Hold! What murmur, what scent wingeth to me, its source invisible, heavenly or human, or blent of both? Hath there come to this crag at the confines of the world someone to stare upon my sufferings—or with what intent? Behold me, an ill-fated god, immanacled, the foe of Zeus, me who have incurred the enmity of all who resort unto the court of Zeus, by reason of my too great love for mankind. Ha! What's this? What may be this rustling stir I hear again hard by, of birds? The air whirs with the light rush of pinions. Whatever approaches is fraught with alarm for me.

[The Daughters of Oceanus enter on a winged car]

CHORUS

Be not alarmed! For this our band hath come in winged rivalry of speed unto this crag in love to thee, having won our sire's consent as best we might.

¹ τοιάσδε M, τοῖωνδε recc.

² ὑπαίθριος: Blomfield.

³ πασσαλείμενος M (with first accent deleted), -ευμένος KN, δεσμοῖσι πασσαλευτός most recc.: C. G. Haupt.

⁴ θεόσσυτος M, θεόσυτος Arund.

⁵ ἡμῶν M, ἐμῶν recc.

⁶ ἥδε: Herm.

ÆSCHYLUS

κραιπνοφόροι δέ μ' ἔπεμψαν αὔραι·
 κτύπου γὰρ ἀχὼν χάλυβος
 διῆξεν ἀντρων μυχόν, ἐκ
 δ' ἔπληξέ μου τὰν θεμερῶπιν¹ αἰδῶ·
 135 σύθην δ' ἀπέδιλος ὄχῳ πτερωτῶ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

αἰαῖ αἰαῖ,²
 τῆς πολυτέκνου Τηθύος ἔκγονα,
 τοῦ περὶ πᾶσάν θ' εἰλισσομένου
 χθόν' ἀκοιμήτῳ ῥεύματι παῖδες
 140 πατρὸς Ὠκεανοῦ,
 δέρχθητ', ἐσίδεσθ' οἷῳ δεσμῶ
 προσπορπατὸς³ τῆσδε φάραγγος
 σκοπέλοις ἐν ἄκροις
 φρουρὰν ἄζηλον ὀχήσω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

λεύσσω, Προμηθεῦ· φοβερὰ
 145 δ' ἐμοῖσιν ὅσσοις ὀμίχλα⁴
 προσῆξε πλήρης δακρύων
 σὸν δέμας εἰσιδούσα⁵
 πέτραις⁶ προσαναιόμενον
 ταῖσδ'⁷ ἀδαμαντοδέτοισι⁸ λύμαις.
 νέοι γὰρ οἰακονόμοι
 κρατοῦσ' Ὀλύμπου· νεοχμοῖς
 150 δέ δὴ νόμοις Ζεὺς ἀθέτως⁹ κρατύνει.
 τὰ πρὶν δὲ πελώρια νῦν αἰστοῖ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

εἰ γάρ μ' ὑπὸ γῆν νέρθεν θ'¹⁰ Ἄιδου¹¹

¹ θεμερῶπιν M, θερμερῶπιν m¹ recc.

² αἰ αἰ αἰ M, αἰ αἰ αἰ αἰ recc.

³ πρὸς πατρός M, προσπορπατὸς m¹.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

The swift-coursing breezes bore me on ; for the reverberation of the clang of iron pierced our inmost cave's recess and drove my grave-miened modesty away in fright ; and I set off in haste unsandalled on a winged car.

PROMETHEUS

Alas ! Alas ! Offspring of fruitful Tethys and of him who with his sleepless current encircleth the whole earth, children of your father Oceanus, behold, look on me, pinioned by what fetters, upon the summit crag of this ravine, I am to hold my unenviable watch

CHORUS

I behold, Prometheus ; and in my alarm for thee there spread o'er mine eyes a mist all filled with tears as I saw thy body withering ignominiously upon this rock in these bonds of adamant. For new rulers lord it in heaven, and with new-fangled laws Zeus wieldeth arbitrary sway ; and that which was mighty of old he now bringeth to naught.

PROMETHEUS

Oh that he had hurled me below the earth, aye

⁴ ὁμίχλη M, ὁμίχλα N.

⁵ εἰσιδουσα M, εἰσιδοῦσαῖ m¹, εἰσιδοῖση and -οῦσι recc.

⁶ πέτραι (with s added ?) M, πέτρα VQKR, πέτραις PBLN.

⁷ ταῖς : Vict.

⁸ ἀδαμαντοδέτοις : Turn.

⁹ ἀθέσμως : Bentley from Hesych.

¹⁰ τ' : Turn.

¹¹ αἶδου : Blomfield.

AESCHYLUS

τοῦ νεκροδέγμονος εἰς ἀπέρατον¹
 Τάρταρον ἦκεν,
 155 δεσμοῖς ἀλύτοις ἀγρίως² πελάσας,
 ὥς μήτε³ θεὸς μήτε τις ἄλλος
 τοῖσδ' ἐπεγήθει.
 νῦν δ' αἰθέριον κίνυγμ' ὁ τάλας
 ἐχθροῖς ἐπίχαρτα πέπονθα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

160 τίς ὦδε τλησικάρδιος [στρ. β.
 θεῶν, ὅτῳ τάδ' ἐπιχαρῇ;
 τίς οὐ ξυνασχαλᾷ κακοῖς
 τεοῖσι, δίχα γε Διός; ὁ δ' ἐπικότῳς ἀεὶ⁴
 θέμενος ἀγναμπτον⁵ νόον
 165 δάμναται Οὐρανίαν
 γένναν, οὐδὲ λή-
 ξει, πρὶν ἂν ἡ κορέση κέαρ ἢ παλάμα τινὶ
 τὰν δυσάλωτον ἔλῃ τις ἀρχάν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἦ μὴν ἔτ' ἐμοῦ,⁶ καίπερ κρατεραῖς
 ἐν γυιοπέδαις⁷ αἰκίζομένου,
 170 χρεῖαν ἔξει μακάρων πρύτανις,
 δεῖξαι τὸ νέον βούλευμ' ὑφ'⁸ ὅτου
 σκῆπτρον τιμάς τ' ἀποσυλᾶται.
 καὶ μ' οὔτι⁹ μελιγλώσσοις πειθοῦς
 ἐπαοιδαῖσιν θέλξει, στερεάς τ'
 175 οὔποτ' ἀπειλὰς πτήξας τόδ' ἐγὼ
 καταμηνύσω,
 πρὶν ἂν ἐξ ἀγρίων δεσμῶν χαλάσῃ
 ποινας τε τίνειν¹⁰
 τῇσδ'¹¹ αἰκείας¹² ἐθελήσῃ.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

'neath Hades, the entertainer of the dead, into impassable Tartarus, and had ruthlessly fastened me in fetters no hand can loose, that so nor god nor other kind had now gloated over this my agony! But, as it is, a plaything of the winds, to my misery, I suffer ills whereat my foes exult.

CHORUS

Who of the gods is so hard of heart as to make thy misery cause of exultation? Who feels not with thee the pang of thy woes—save only Zeus? But he in rancour hath set his soul inflexibly and keepeth in subjection the race sprung from Uranus; nor will he make an end, until either he hath satiated his soul or, by some device of guile, another seize his impregnable empire.

PROMETHEUS

Verily the day shall yet come when, though I be thus tortured in stubborn fetters, the Prince of the Blessed shall have need of me to reveal the new design and by whom he shall be stripped of his sceptre and his dignities. Not by persuasion's honied enchantments shall he charm me; and never will I, cowering before his dire threats, divulge this secret, until he shall release me from my cruel bonds and desire to proffer satisfaction for this outrage.

¹ ἀπέραντον : Wilam.

² ἀγρίοις M, ἀγρίως recc.

³ ὥς μήποτε : Turn.

⁴ αἰεὶ M most recc., αἰεὶ KFN.

⁵ ἀγναμφον M, ἀγναμπον m¹, ἀγναπτον R¹LN.

⁶ ἔτ' ἀπ' ἐμοῦ M, ἔτ' ἐμοῦ recc.

⁷ γυσιπέδαις M, γυσιπέδαις recc.

⁸ ἀφ' changed to ὑφ' M.

⁹ οὗτοι M, οὗτι recc.

¹⁰ τέ μοι τίνειν M most recc., τε τίνειν N.

¹¹ τῆς M, τῆσδ' recc.

¹² aiklas : Elmsley.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 180 σὺ μὲν θρασύς τε καὶ πικραῖς [ἀντ. β.
 δύαισιν οὐδέν ἐπιχαλᾷς,
 ἄγαν δ' ἐλευθεροστομεῖς.
 ἐμὰς δὲ φρένας ἐρέθισε¹ διάτορος φόβος·
 δέδια δ'² ἀμφὶ σαῖς τύχαις,
 185 πᾷ³ ποτε τῶνδε πόνων
 χρή δὲ τέρμα κέλ-
 σαντ' ἐσιδεῖν· ἀκίχητα γὰρ ἦθεα καὶ κέαρ
 ἀπαράμυθον⁴ ἔχει Κρόνου παῖς.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- οἶδ' ὅτι τραχὺς καὶ⁵ παρ' ἑαυτῷ
 190 τὸ δίκαιον ἔχων Ζεὺς· ἀλλ' ἔμπας [οἶω]⁶
 μαλακογνώμων
 ἔσται ποθ', ὅταν ταύτῃ ῥαισθῇ⁷
 τὴν δ' ἀτέραμνον στορέσας ὀργὴν
 εἰς ἀρθμὸν ἐμοὶ καὶ φιλότῃτα
 195 σπεύδων σπεύδοντί ποθ' ἥξει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πάντ' ἐκκάλυψον καὶ γέγων' ἡμῖν λόγον,
 ποίω λαβῶν σε Ζεὺς ἐπ' αἰτιάματι,
 οὕτως ἀτίμως καὶ πικρῶς αἰκίζεσαι·
 δίδαξον ἡμᾶς, εἴ τι μὴ βλάπτει λόγῳ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- ἀλγεινὰ μὲν μοι καὶ λέγειν ἐστὶν τάδε,
 200 ἄλγος δὲ σιγᾶν, πανταχῇ δὲ δύσποτμα.
 ἐπεὶ τάχιστ' ἤρξαντο δαίμονες χόλου
 στάσις τ' ἐν ἀλλήλοισιν ὠροθύνετο,

¹ ἠρέθισε: Turn.

² γὰρ: δ' Porson.

³ ὅπα M recc. (ὅπη, ὅποι, ὅπου recc.), πᾷ N.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

CHORUS

Bold art thou, and batest not a jot for all thy bitter pangs, and thou givest too much licence to thy tongue. But my soul is agitated by piercing fear, and I am in dread about thy fate, wondering to what haven thou must steer thy barque to see an end of thy voyage of sorrow. For inexorable are the ways of Cronus' son and his heart is hardened against entreaty.

PROMETHEUS

I know that Zeus is harsh and keepeth justice in his own hands; but nevertheless one day he shall be mild of mood, when in that wise¹ he hath been crushed. Then, calming down his stubborn wrath, he shall at last come into bond and amity with me, eager no less to welcome him.

CHORUS

Unfold the whole story and declare to us upon what charge Zeus hath taken thee that he thus visits thee with ignominious and bitter outrage. Instruct us, unless, indeed, there be some harm in telling.

PROMETHEUS

Painful is it to me even to tell the tale, painful to keep it silent—my case is hapless every way.

When first the heavenly powers were moved to wrath, and mutual dissension was stirred up amongst

¹ A veiled allusion to the secret hinted at in l. 171

⁴ οὐ παράμυθον MVN, ἀπαράμυθον recc.

⁵ τε καὶ M most recc., καὶ N.

⁶ ἰὼ M, ὀίω m¹ (ὀίω and οίω recc.): om. N (Triclinius).

⁷ ῥωσθῆ (ω in erasure) M, ῥαισθῆ recc.

AESCHYLUS

- οἱ μὲν θέλοντες ἐκβαλεῖν ἔδρας¹ Κρόνον,
 ὥς Ζεὺς ἀνάσσοι δῆθεν, οἱ δὲ τοῦμπαλιν
 205 σπεύδοντες, ὥς Ζεὺς μήποτ' ἄρξειεν θεῶν,
 ἐνταῦθ' ἐγὼ τὰ λῶστα βουλεύων πιθεῖν²
 Τιτᾶνας, Οὐρανοῦ τε καὶ Χθονὸς τέκνα,
 οὐκ ἠδυνήθην· αἰμύλας δὲ μηχανὰς
 ἀτιμάσαντες καρτεροῖς φρονήμασιν
 210 ὦντ' ἀμοχθεῖ³ πρὸς βίαν τε δεσπόσειν·
 ἔμοι δὲ μήτηρ οὐχ ἄπαξ μόνον Θέμις,
 καὶ Γαῖα, πολλῶν ὀνομάτων μορφή μία,
 τὸ μέλλον ἢ κραίνοιτο προυτεθεσπικει,
 ὥς οὐ κατ' ἰσχὺν οὐδὲ πρὸς τὸ καρτερόν
 215 χρεῖη,⁴ δόλῳ δὲ τοὺς ὑπερσχόντας⁵ κρατεῖν
 τοιαῦτ' ἐμοῦ λόγοισιν ἐξηγουμένου
 οὐκ ἠξίωσαν οὐδὲ προσβλέψαι τὸ πᾶν.
 κράτιστα δὴ μοι τῶν παρεστώτων τότε
 ἐφαίνεται εἶναι προσλαβόντα⁶ μητέρα
 220 ἐκόνθ' ἐκόντι Ζηνὶ συμπαραστατεῖν.
 ἔμαῖς δὲ βουλαῖς Ταρτάρου μελαμβαθῆς
 κευθμῶν καλύπτει τὸν παλαιγενῆ Κρόνον
 αὐτοῖσι συμμάχοισι. τοιάδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ
 ὁ τῶν θεῶν τύραννος ὠφελημένος
 225 κακαῖσι ποιναῖς ταῖσδέ μ' ἐξημεῖψατο.⁷
 ἔνεστι γάρ πως τοῦτο τῇ τυραννίδι
 νόσημα, τοῖς φίλοισι μὴ πεποιθέναι.
 ὁ δ' οὖν ἐρωτᾷτ', αἰτίαν⁸ καθ' ἣντινα
 αἰκίζεται με, τοῦτο δὴ σαφηνιῶ.
 230 ὅπως τάχιστα τὸν πατρῶον ἐς θρόνον
 καθέζετ', εὐθὺς δαίμοσιν⁹ νέμει γέρα

¹ ἔδρας MPVQR, ἔδρας recc. ² πιθεῖν M, πιθεῖν m¹.

³ ἀμοχθεῖ M, ἀμοχθεῖ most recc.

⁴ χρῆ· ἢ M (χρεῖ· ἢ marg. m¹), χρῆ ἢ recc. : Dawes.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

them, some bent on casting Cronus from his seat that Zeus, forsooth, might reign; others, eager for the contrary end, that Zeus might never win mastery over the gods—then it was that I, albeit advising them for the best, was unable to persuade the Titans, children of Heaven and Earth; but they, disdaining counsels of craft, in the pride of their strength thought to gain the mastery without a struggle and by force. Full oft my mother Themis, or Earth (one form she hath but many names), had foretold to me the way in which the future was fated to come to pass—how that it was not by brute strength and not through violence, but by guile that those who should gain the upper hand were destined to prevail. For all that I set this forth by argument to them, they did not deign even to regard my advice one whit. Therefore of what was then before me the best choice seemed to be that I, joining my mother with me, should range myself, a welcome volunteer, on the side of Zeus; and it is by reason of my counsel that the cavernous gloom of Tartarus now hides ancient Cronus and his allies withal. Such profit did the tyrant of heaven have of me and with such foul return as this did he make requital; for it is a disease that somehow inheres in tyranny to have no faith in friends.

However, touching your question for what cause he torments me, this I will now make clear.

Soon as ever he had seated himself upon his father's throne, he forthwith assigned to the deities

⁵ ὑπερχόντας M, -έχοντας most recc., -έσχοντας some recc.: Porson.

⁶ προσλαβόντι M most recc., προσλαβόντα KN.

⁷ ἐξημείψατο M, ἀντημείψατο Arund. Cant. 2.

⁸ αἰτίην M, αἰτίαν recc.

⁹ δαίμοσι M.

AESCHYLUS

- ἄλλοισιν ἄλλα καὶ διεστοιχίζετο
 ἀρχήν· βροτῶν δὲ τῶν ταλαιπώρων λόγον
 οὐκ ἔσχεν οὐδέν', ἀλλ' αἰστώσας γένος
 235 τὸ πᾶν ἔχρηζεν ἄλλο φιτῦσαι νέον.
 καὶ τοῖσιν¹ οὐδεὶς ἀντέβαινε πλὴν ἐμοῦ.
 ἐγὼ δ' ἐτόλμησ'·² ἐξελυσάμην βροτοὺς
 τὸ μὴ³ διαρραισθέντας εἰς Ἅιδου μολεῖν.
 τῷ τοι⁴ τοιαῖσδε πημοναῖσι κάμπτομαι,
 240 πάσχειν μὲν ἀλγειναῖσιν, οἰκτραῖσιν δ' ἰδεῖν·
 θνητοὺς δ' ἐν οἴκτῳ προθέμενος, τούτου τυχεῖν
 οὐκ ἤξιώθην αὐτός, ἀλλὰ νηλεῶς⁵
 ὦδ' ἐρρύθμισμαι, Ζηνὶ δυσκλεῆς θέα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- σιδηρόφρων τε καὶ πέτρας εἰργασμένος
 245 ὅστις, Προμηθεῦ, σοῖσιν οὐ συνασχαλᾷ
 μόχθοις· ἐγὼ γὰρ οὔτ' ἂν εἰσιδεῖν τάδε
 ἔχρηζον εἰσιδοῦσά τ' ἠλγύνθην⁶ κέαρ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

καὶ μὴν φίλοις <γ'>⁷ ἐλείνωδ' εἰσορᾶν ἐγώ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μὴ ποῦ τι προύβης τῶνδε καὶ περαιτέρω;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- 250 θνητούς γ'⁹ ἔπαυσα μὴ προδέρκεσθαι¹⁰ μόρον.

¹ τοῖσιν (ν in erasure M).

² δὲ τόλμησ' M, δ' ἐτόλμησ' reported by schol. M, δὲ τολμῆς and δὲ τόλμης recs.

³ τὸ μὴ M, τοῦ μὴ recs.

⁴ τῷ ταῖς M, τοι over ταῖς m.

⁵ ἀλλὰ ἀνηλεῶς: Elmsley.

⁶ ἀλγύνθην M, ἠλγύνθην recs.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

their several privileges and apportioned unto them their proper powers. But of wretched mortals he took no heed, but desired to bring the whole race to nothingness and to create another, a new one, in its stead. Against this purpose none dared make stand save I myself—I only had the courage; I saved mortals so that they did not descend, blasted utterly, unto the house of Death. Therefore am I bent by so grievous tortures, painful to suffer, piteous to behold. I that gave mortals first place in my pity, I am deemed unworthy to win this pity for myself, but am thus mercilessly disciplined, a spectacle that shames the fame of Zeus.

CHORUS

A heart of iron and fashioned out of rock, Prometheus, is he who feels no compassion at thy miseries. For myself, I should not have desired to see them; and now that I see them I am pained to the heart.

PROMETHEUS

Aye, to my friends indeed I am a spectacle of pity.

CHORUS

'Thou didst not perchance transgress even somewhat beyond this offence?

PROMETHEUS

Aye, I caused mortals no longer to foresee their doom.¹

¹ "Doom" here signifies "doom of death."

⁷ <γ> Wecklein.

⁸ ἐλεεινός: Porson.

⁹ θυητούς τ' M, Lips. 1 Ven. 3, θυητούς γ' Lips. 2 P², Vind. 2. 4, θυητούς most recc. ¹⁰ προσδέρεσθαι changed to προ-

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τὸ ποῖον εὐρῶν τῇσδε φάρμακον νόσου;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τυφλὰς ἐν αὐτοῖς ἐλπίδας κατώκισα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μέγ' ὠφέλημα τοῦτ' ἐδωρήσω βροτοῖς.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

πρὸς τοῖσδε μέντοι πῦρ ἐγὼ σφιν ὥπασα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

255 καὶ νῦν φλογωπὸν πῦρ ἔχουσ' ἐφήμεροι;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἄφ' οὗ γε πολλὰς ἐκμαθήσονται τέχνας.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τοιοῖσδε δὴ σε Ζεὺς ἐπ' αἰτιάμασιν—

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ¹

αἰκίζεταί τε κούδαμῃ χαλᾷ κακῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ¹

οὐδ' ἔστιν ἄθλου τέρμα σοι προκείμενον;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

260 οὐκ ἄλλο γ' οὐδέν, πλὴν ὅταν κείνῳ δοκῇ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

δόξει δὲ πῶς; τίς ἐλπίς; οὐχ ὄρας ὅτι
ἡμαρτες; ὥς δ' ἡμαρτες οὗτ' ἐμοὶ λέγειν

¹ Πρ Χορ added by Welcker.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

CHORUS

Of what sort was the cure thou didst find for this affliction ?

PROMETHEUS

I caused blind hopes to dwell within their breasts.

CHORUS

A great boon was this thou gavest to mortals.

PROMETHEUS

And besides it was I that gave them fire.

CHORUS

What ! Do creatures of a day now have flame-eyed fire ?

PROMETHEUS

Aye, and therefrom they shall learn many arts.

CHORUS

Was it then on a charge like this that Zeus—

PROMETHEUS

Torments me and in no wise gives me respite from pain.

CHORUS

And is there no end assigned thee of thine ordeal ?

PROMETHEUS

Nay, none save when it seemeth to him good.

CHORUS

But how shall it seem good ? What hope is there ? Seest thou not that thou hast erred ? And yet how thou hast erred is no pleasant matter of discourse

AESCHYLUS

καθ' ἡδονὴν σοί τ' ἄλγος. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν
μεθῶμεν, ἄθλου δ' ἔκλυσιν ζήτει τινά.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- 265 ἔλαφρόν ὅστις πημάτων ἔξω πόδα
ἔχει παραινεῖν νουθετεῖν τε τὸν κακῶς
πράσσουντ'·¹ ἐγὼ δὲ ταῦθ' ἅπαντ' ἠπιστάμην.
ἐκὼν ἐκὼν ἤμαρτον, οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι.
θνητοῖς ἀρήγων αὐτὸς ἡύρόμην² πόνους.
270 οὐ μὴν τι ποιναῖς γ' ὥρόμην τοῖαίσι με
κατισχανεῖσθαι³ πρὸς πέτραις πεδαρσίοις,⁴
τυχόντ' ἐρήμου τοῦδ' ἀγείτονος πάγου.
καί μοι τὰ μὲν παρόντα μὴ δύρεσθ' ἄχῃ,
πέδοι δὲ βᾶσαι τὰς προσερπούσας τύχας
275 ἀκούσαθ', ὡς μάθητε διὰ τέλους τὸ πᾶν.
πίθεσθέ μοι, πίθεσθε,⁵ συμπονήσατε
τῷ νῦν μογοῦντι. ταῦτά τοι⁶ πλανωμένη
πρὸς ἄλλοτ' ἄλλον πημονὴ προσιζάνει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- οὐκ ἀκούσαις ἐπεθώυξας
280 τοῦτο, Προμηθεῦ.
καὶ νῦν ἐλαφρῶ ποδὶ κραιπνόστυον⁷
θᾶκον προλιποῦς⁸, αἰθέρα θ' ἀγνόν
πόρον οἰωνῶν, ὀκριόεσση
χθονὶ τῇδε πελῶ, τοὺς σοὺς δὲ πόνους
285 χρήζω διὰ παντὸς ἀκοῦσαι.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

ἦκω δολιχῆς τέρμα κελεύθου

¹ τοὺς κακῶς πράσσοντας : Stanley.

² εὐρόμην M, ἡύρόμην recs.

³ κατισχανεῖσθαι M, κατισχανεῖσθαι recs.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

for me, while for thee 'tis pain. But let us quit this theme; and do thou seek some release from thine ordeal.

PROMETHEUS

'Tis easy for him who keeps his foot free from harm to counsel and admonish him who is in misery. Myself I knew all this the while. Of mine own will, aye, of mine own will I erred—gainsay it I cannot. In succouring mortals I found suffering for myself; nevertheless I thought not to be punished thus—to waste away upon cliffs in mid-air, my portion this desolate and drear crag. And now, I pray ye, bewail no more my present woes; alight on the ground and listen to my oncoming fortunes that ye may be told them from end to end. Consent, I pray you, oh consent Take part in the trouble of him who is now in sore distress. Of a truth, affliction wandereth impartially abroad and alighteth upon all in turn.

CHORUS

Not to unwilling ears hast thou made this appeal, Prometheus. And so now with light foot I will quit my swift-speeding seat and the pure air, the pathway of birds, and draw nigh to this rugged ground; for I am fain to hear the whole story of thy woes.

[Enter Oceanus on a winged steed]

OCEANUS

I am come to the goal of a long journey in my

⁴ *πεδαρπαις* corrected to *-αις* M.

⁵ *πελθεσθε* twice; Elmsley.

⁶ *ταῦτά τοι* M, *ταῦτά τοι* schol. M.

⁷ *κραιπνόςσυντον* M, *κραιπνόςσυντον* recs.

AESCHYLUS

- διαμειψάμενος πρὸς σέ, Προμηθεῦ,
 τὸν πτερυγικῇ τόνδ' οἶωνόν
 γνώμη στομίῳ ἄτερ εὐθύνων·
 290 ταῖς σαῖς δὲ τύχαις, ἴσθι, συναλγῶ.
 τό τε γάρ με, δοκῶ, συγγενὲς οὕτως
 ἔσαναγκάζει,
 χωρὶς τε γένους οὐκ ἔστιν ὅτῳ
 μείζονα μοῖραν νείμαιμ' ἢ σοί.
 295 γνώσῃ δὲ τάδ' ὥς ἔτυμ', οὐδὲ μάτην
 χαριτογλωσσεῖν¹ ἔνι μοι· φέρε γὰρ
 σήμαιν' ὅ τι χρή σοι συμπράσσειν·²
 οὐ γάρ ποτ' ἐρεῖς ὥς Ὀκεανοῦ
 φίλος ἐστὶ βεβαιοτέρός σοι.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- 300 ἔα· τί χρήμα λεύσσω; καὶ σὺ δὴ πόνων ἐμῶν
 ἦκεις ἐπόπτῃς; πῶς ἐτόλμησας, λιπὼν
 ἐπώνυμόν τε ῥεῦμα καὶ πετρηρεφῇ
 αὐτόκτιτ' ἄντρα, τὴν σιδηρομήτορα
 ἐλθεῖν ἐς αἶαν; ἡ³ θεωρήσων τύχας
 305 ἐμὰς ἀφίξαι καὶ συνασχαλῶν κακοῖς;
 δέρκου θέαμα, τόνδε τὸν Διὸς φίλον,
 τὸν συγκαταστήσαντα τὴν τυραννίδα,
 οἴαις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ πημοναῖσι κάμπτομαι.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

- 310 ὁρῶ, Προμηθεῦ, καὶ παραινέσαι γέ σοι
 θέλω τὰ λῶστα, καίπερ ὄντι ποικίλῳ.
 γίγνωσκε σαυτὸν καὶ μεθάρμοσαι τρόπους
 νέους· νέος γὰρ καὶ τύραννος ἐν θεοῖς.
 εἰ δ' ὧδε τραχεῖς καὶ τεθηγμένους λόγους
 ῥίψεις, τάχ' ἂν σου καὶ μακρὰν ἀνωτέρω

PROMETHEUS BOUND

passage to thee, Prometheus, guiding by mine own will, without a bit, this swift-winged bird. For thy fate, thou may'st be sure, I feel compassion. Kinship, methinks, constraineth me to this; and, apart from blood, there is none to whom I should pay greater respect than to thee. Thou shalt know this for simple sooth and that it is not in me to utter vain and glozing words; come, tell me—what aid can I render thee? For thou shalt never say thou hast a friend more loyal than Oceanus.

PROMETHEUS

Ha! What have we here? So then thou too hast come to stare upon my sufferings? How didst thou summon courage to quit the stream that bears thy name and the rock-roofed caves thou thyself hast made and come unto this land, the mother of iron? Is it that thou hast come to gaze upon my state and join thy grief to my distress? Behold a spectacle—me here, the friend of Zeus, who helped him to establish his sovereign sway, by what anguish I am bent even by him!

OCEANUS

I behold, Prometheus; and moreover, am fain to give thee counsel for the best, for all that thou art subtle. Learn to know thyself and adapt to thyself new ways; for new likewise is the ruler among the gods. But if thou hurlest forth words so harsh and of such whetted edge, peradventure Zeus may

¹ σε τὸ χαριτογλωσσεῖν M recs. (some recs. omit τὸ, some have γλωττεῖν): χαριτογλωσσεῖν N, Athen. 165 c.

² συμπράττειν: Brunck.

³ ἢ M, ἢ recs.

AESCHYLUS

- 315 θακῶν κλύοι Ζεύς, ὥστε σοι τὸν νῦν ὄχλον¹
παρόντα μόχθων παιδιὰν εἶναι δοκεῖν.
ἀλλ', ὦ ταλαίπωρ', ἅς ἔχεις ὀργὰς ἄφες,
ζήτει δὲ τῶνδε πημάτων ἀπαλλαγάς.
ἀρχαί' ἴσως σοι φαίνομαι λέγειν τάδε·
- 320 τοιαῦτα μέντοι τῆς ἄγαν ὑψηλόρου
γλώσσης, Προμηθεῦ, τὰπίχειρα γίγνεται.
σὺ δ' οὐδέπω ταπεινὸς οὐδ' εἵκεις κακοῖς,
πρὸς τοῖς παροῦσι δ' ἄλλα προσλαβεῖν θέλεις.
οὐκ οὐν ἔμοιγε χρώμενος διδασκάλῳ
- 325 πρὸς κέντρα κῶλον ἐκτενεῖς, ὁρῶν ὅτι
τραχὺς μόναρχος οὐδ' ὑπεύθυνος κρατεῖ.
καὶ νῦν ἐγὼ μὲν εἶμι καὶ πειράσομαι
ἐὰν δύνωμαι τῶνδ' ἐκλύσαι πόνων·
σὺ δ' ἡσύχαζε μηδ' ἄγαν λαβροστόμει.
- 330 ἢ οὐκ οἶσθ' ἀκριβῶς ὣν περισσόφρων ὅτι
γλώσση ματαίᾳ ζῆμιά προστρίβεται;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- ζηλῶ σ' ὀθύνεκ' ἐκτὸς αἰτίας κυρεῖς
τούτων² μετασχεῖν³ καὶ τετολμηκῶς ἐμοί.
καὶ νῦν ἔασον μηδέ⁴ σοι μελησάτω.
- 335 πάντως γὰρ οὐ πείσεις⁵ νιν· οὐ γὰρ εὐπιθής.⁶
πάπταινε δ' αὐτὸς μή τι πημανθήῃς ὁδῶ.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

- πολλῶ γ' ἀμείνων τοὺς πέλας φρενοῦν ἔφυς
ἢ σαυτόν· ἔργῳ κοῦ λόγῳ τεκμαίρομαι.
- 340 ὀρμώμενον δὲ μηδαμῶς ἀντισπάσης.

¹ χόλον : Doederlein.

³ μετασχῶν : Weil.

⁵ πείθεις M, πείσεις recc.

² πάντων : Wecklein.

⁴ μηδὲν M, μηδὲ recc.

⁶ εὐπειθής M, εὐπιθής recc.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

hear thee, though throned afar, high in the heavens, so that thy present multitude of sorrows shall seem but childish sport. But, oh wretched sufferer, put away thy wrathful mood and try to find releasement from these miseries. Perchance this advice may seem to thee an outworn saw ; but such plight as thine, Prometheus, is but the wages of too vaunting speech. But not even yet hast thou learned humility, nor dost thou bend before misfortune, but wouldst rather add still other ills to thy present store. Therefore take me as thy teacher and kick not against the pricks, seeing that a harsh ruler now holds sway who is accountable to none. So now I will depart and try if haply I may be able to release thee from these sufferings. And do thou hold thy peace and be not too blustering of speech. Or, for all thy exceeding wisdom, dost thou not know full well that chastisement is inflicted on a froward tongue ?

PROMETHEUS

I envy thee that thou art clear of blame for having so much as dared to share with me in these my troubles.¹ So now have done and let it concern thee not. Do what thou wilt, thou canst not persuade him ; for he is not easy to persuade. Beware lest by thy mission thou take, perchance, some harm unto thyself.

OCEANUS

Of a truth, thou art far better able to admonish others than thyself. 'Tis by fact, not by hearsay, that I judge. But stay not him that is bent on

¹ The reading of the mss. can only mean that Oceanus had participated throughout in the rebellion of Prometheus ; whereas, in l. 236, Prometheus expressly declares that he had no confederate in his opposition to Zeus.

AESCHYLUS

αὐχῶ γὰρ αὐχῶ τήνδε δωρεὰν ἐμοὶ
δώσειν Δί', ὥστε τῶνδ' ἐκλύσαι πόνων.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- τὰ μὲν σ' ἐπαινῶ κοῦδαμῇ¹ λήξω ποτέ·
προθυμίας γὰρ οὐδὲν ἐλλείπεις. ἀτὰρ
μηδὲν πόνει· μάτην γὰρ οὐδὲν ὠφελῶν
345 ἐμοὶ πονήσεις, εἴ τι καὶ πονεῖν θέλεις.
ἀλλ' ἡσύχαζε σαυτὸν ἐκποδῶν ἔχων·
ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐκ, εἰ δυστυχῶ, τοῦδ' εἵνεκα
θέλοιμ' ἂν ὥς πλείστοισι πημονὰς τυχεῖν.
²οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ με καὶ κασιγνήτου τύχαι
350 τεύρουσ' Ἀτλαντος, ὃς πρὸς³ ἑσπέρους τόπους
ἔστηκε κίον' οὐρανοῦ τε καὶ χθονὸς
ὥμοις ἐρείδων, ἄχθος οὐκ εὐάγκαλον.
τὸν γηγενῇ τε Κιλικίων οἰκήτορα
ἄντρων ἰδὼν ῥέκτιρα,⁴ δάιον τέρας
355 ἑκατογκάρανον⁵ πρὸς βίαν χειρούμενον
Τυφῶνα θοῦρον· πᾶσιν[ὃς]⁶ ἀντέστη θεοῖς,
σμερδναῖσι γαμφηλαῖσι συρίζων φόβον·
ἐξ ὀμμάτων δ' ἥστραπτε γοργωπὸν σέλας,
ὥς τὴν Διὸς τυραννίδ' ἐκπέρσων βία·
360 ἀλλ' ἦλθεν αὐτῷ Ζηνὸς ἄγρυπνον βέλος,
καταιβάτης κεραυνὸς ἐκπνέων φλόγα,
ὃς αὐτὸν ἐξέπληξε τῶν ὑψηγόρων
κομπασμάτων. φρένας γὰρ εἰς αὐτὰς τυπεῖς
ἐφεψαλώθη κάζεβροντήθη σθένης.
365 καὶ νῦν ἀχρεῖον καὶ παράορον⁸ δέμας
κεῖται στενωποῦ πλησίον θαλασσίου
ἱπούμενος ῥίζαισιν Αἰτναίαις ὑπο·

¹ κ' οὐδὲ μὴ M, κοῦδαμῇ recc.

² l. 349 is given to Oceanus in many mss. (but not in M).

³ ἐς M, πρὸς recc.

⁴ ῥέκτιρα : Kirchhoff.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

going. For I am confident, aye, confident, that Zeus will grant me this boon, to free thee from thy sufferings.

PROMETHEUS

So far I thank thee now and shall never cease to thank thee; for in zeal thou lackest naught. But trouble not thyself; for vain and not helpful to me will be thy trouble—if trouble thou art fain perchance to take. Nay, hold thee quiet and keep thyself clear of harm. For if I am in sore plight, I would not therefore wish affliction to be the lot of all the world. No, indeed, no! since, besides, I am distressed by the fate of my brother Atlas, who, towards the west, stands bearing on his shoulders the pillar of heaven and earth, a burthen not easy for his arms to grasp. Pity moved me, too, at the sight of the earth-born dweller of the Cilician caves curbed by violence, that destructive monster of an hundred heads, impetuous Typhon. He withstood all the gods, hissing out terror with horrid jaws, while from his eyes lightened a hideous glare, as though he would storm amain the sovereignty of Zeus. But upon him came the unsleeping bolt of Zeus, the swooping levin brand with breath of flame, which smote him, frightened, from his high-worded vauntings; for, stricken to the very heart, he was burnt to ashes and his strength blasted from him by the lightning bolt. And now, a helpless and a sprawling bulk, he lies hard by the narrows of the sea, pressed down beneath the roots of Aetna; whilst on the topmost

⁵ ἑκατοντοκάρηγον with a over η M: Blomfield.

⁶ πᾶσιν δς MPBLN, δς πᾶσιν many recc. [δς] Wellauer.

⁷ φόβον M, φόνον recc.

⁸ παράωρον M, παρήγορον PLR, παράορον Q².

AESCHYLUS

- 370 κορυφαῖς δ' ἐν ἄκραις ἤμενος μυδροκτυπεῖ
 "Ἥφαιστος· ἔνθεν ἐκραγῆσονται ποτε
 ποταμοὶ πυρὸς δάπτοντες ἀγρίαις γνάθοις
 τῆς καλλικάρπου Σικελίας λευροὺς γύας·
 τοιόνδε Τυφῶς ἐξαναζέσει χόλον
 θερμοῖς¹ ἀπλάτου² βέλεσι³ πυρπνόου ζάλης,
 καίπερ κεραυνῶ Ζηνὸς ἠνθρακωμένος.
 375 σὺ δ' οὐκ ἄπειρος, οὐδ' ἐμοῦ διδασκάλου
 χρήζεις· σεαυτὸν σῶζ' ὅπως ἐπίστασαι·
 ἐγὼ δὲ τὴν παροῦσαν ἀντλήσω τύχην,
 ἔστ' ἂν Διὸς φρόνημα λωφήσῃ χόλου.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

- 380 οὐκουν, Προμηθεῦ, τοῦτο γινώσκεις, ὅτι
 ὀργῆς⁴ νοσοῦσης εἰσὶν ἰατροὶ λόγοι;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἐάν τις ἐν καιρῷ γε μαλθάσῃ κέαρ
 καὶ μὴ σφριγῶντα θυμὸν ἰσχναίνει βία.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

ἐν τῷ προθυμεῖσθαι⁵ δὲ καὶ τολμᾶν τίνα
 ὀρᾶς ἐνοῦσαν ζημίαν; δίδασκέ με.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- 385 μόχθον περισσὸν κουφόνουν τ' εὐηθίαν.

¹ θερμῆς M, θερμοῖς recc.

² ἀπλήστου; Schutz.

³ βέλεσι M, βέλεσι recc.

⁴ ὀργῆς mss., ψυχῆς Plutarch, *Consol. ad Apoll.* 102 v, Eustathius 696. 33, etc.

⁵ προθυμεῖσθαι most mss., προμηθεῖσθαι PHBQ¹ schol. M. With the latter reading, the meaning is "when daring joins

PROMETHEUS BOUND

summit Hephaestus sits and hammers the molten ore. Thence there shall one day burst forth rivers of fire,¹ with savage jaws devouring the level fields of Sicily, land of fair fruit—such boiling rage shall Typho, although charred by the blazing levin of Zeus, send spouting forth with hot jets of appalling, fire-breathing surge.

But thou art not inexperienced, and hast no need of lessoning from me. Save thyself, as thou best knowest ; while I will drain to the dregs my present lot until such time as the mind of Zeus shall abate its wrath.

OCEANUS

Knowest thou not then, Prometheus, that words are the mediciners of a disordered temper ?

PROMETHEUS

If one salve the soul in season, and not seek to reduce its swelling rage by violence.

OCEANUS

What lurking mischief dost thou mark when daring joins to zeal ? Resolve me this.

PROMETHEUS

Lost labour and blithe and guileless simplicity.

¹ The eruption of Aetna in 479/8 B.C. is also described in a famous passage of Pindar (*Pyth.* i. 21 ff., written in 474 B.C.), which Aeschylus has here in mind. The lyric poet dwells on the physical aspect of the eruption by day and night ; the dramatist, on the damage done to the labour of the husbandman.

to forethought"—a reference to the name of Prometheus (cp. l. 85).

AESCHYLUS

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

ἔα με τῇδε τῇ νόσῳ νοσεῖν, ἐπεὶ
κέρδιστον εὖ φρονοῦντα μὴ φρονεῖν δοκεῖν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἐμὸν δοκήσει τὰμπλάκημ' εἶναι τόδε.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

σαφῶς μ' ἐς οἶκον σὸς λόγος στέλλει πάλιν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

390 μὴ γάρ σε θρῆνος οὐμὸς εἰς ἔχθραν βάλῃ.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

ἦ τῷ νέον θακοῦντι παγκρατεῖς ἔδρας;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τούτου φυλάσσου μὴ ποτ' ἀχθεσθῇ κέαρ.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

ἦ σή, Προμηθεῦ, συμφορὰ διδάσκαλος.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

στέλλου, κομίζου, σῶζε τὸν παρόντα νοῦν.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

395 ὀρμωμένῳ μοι τόνδ' ἐθώυξας λόγον.
λευρὸν γάρ οἶμον αἰθέρος ψαίρει πτεροῖς
τετρασκελῆς οἰωνός· ἄσμενος δέ τ' ἂν¹
σταθμοῖς ἐν οἰκείοισι κάμψειεν γόνυ.

¹ δ' ἔτ' ἂν οἱ δέ τ' ἂν : Blomfield.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

OCEANUS

Leave me to be distempered on this wise, since it advantageth most, when truly wise, to be deemed a fool.

PROMETHEUS

This fault will be seen to be mine own.

OCEANUS

Clearly the tenor of thy speech remands me home.

PROMETHEUS

See to it lest thy lamenting me win thee enmity.

OCEANUS

With him new-seated on his throne omnipotent ?

PROMETHEUS

Beware lest the time come when his heart shall be angered with thee.

OCEANUS

Thy plight, Prometheus, is my instructor.

PROMETHEUS

Get thee gone, dispatch, keep thy present purpose.

OCEANUS

Thy urgency meets my eagerness ; for my four-footed winged beast fans with his wings the smooth pathway of the air ; and truly will he be glad to rest his knees in his stall at home.

[*Exit*

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- [στρ. α.]
- 400 στένω σε τὰς οὐλομένας¹ τύχας, Προμηθεῦ·
δακρυσίστακτα² δ' ἀπ' ὅσων
ῥαδινὰν³ λειβομένα ῥέος παρειὰν
νοτίοις ἔτεγξα παγαῖς⁴.
ἀμέγαρτα γὰρ τάδε Ζεὺς
ἰδίοις νόμοις κρατύνων
- 405 ὑπερήφανον⁵ θεοῖς τοῖς
πάρος ἐνδείκνυσιν αἰχμάν.⁶
- πρόπασα δ' ἤδη στονόεν λέλακε χώρα, [ἀντ. α.]
μεγαλοσχήμενά τ' ἀρχαι-
οπρεπῇ — — —⁷ στένουσι τὰν σὰν
- 410 ξυνομαιμόνων τε τιμάν,
ὁπόσοι τ' ἔποικον ἀγνῶς
Ἀοίας ἔδος νέμονται,
μεγαλοστόνοισι σοῖς πῆ-
μασι συγκάμνουσι θνατοί.
- 415 Κολχίδος τε γὰς ἐνοικοί [στρ. β.]
παρθένοι, μάχας ἄτρεστοι,
καὶ Σκύθης ὄμιλος, οἳ γὰς
ἔσχατον τόπον ἀμφὶ Μαι-
ῶτιν ἔχουσι λίμναν,
- 420 Ἰ' Αραβίας τ' ἄρειον ἄνθος, [ἀντ. β.]
ὑψίκρημνον⁸ οἳ πόλισμα
Καυκάσου πέλας νέμονται,⁹
δαίος στρατός, ὄξυπρώ-
ροιισι βρέμων ἐν αἰχμαῖς.

¹ τὰς οὐλομένας with η over both α's M.

² δακρυσίστακτον : Minckwitz.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

CHORUS

I mourn over thee, Prometheus, by reason of thy hapless fate. Shedding from my eyes a coursing flood of tears I wet my tender cheeks with their moist streams. For Zeus, holding thus direful sway by self-appointed laws, displayeth towards the gods of eld an overweening spirit.

Now the whole earth crieth aloud in lamentation ; . . . lament the greatness of the glory of thy time-hallowed honour, the honour that was thine and thy brethren's ; and all mortals that make their dwelling-place in holy Asia share the anguish of thy most lamentable suffering ;

And the dwellers in the land of Colchis, the maidens fearless in fight ; and the Scythian multitude that tenants the uttermost region of the earth bordering the Maeotic lake ;

And the flower of Arabia in arms, that holdeth the high-cragged citadel hard by Caucasus, a hostile host that roareth in the mellay of sharp-pointed spears.

³ *ῥαδινῶν* M, *ῥαδινὸν* recs. : Wilam.

⁴ *πηγαῖς* M, *παγαῖς* recs.

⁵ *ὑπερήφανος* with *ν* over *ς* M.

⁶ *ἐνδεικνύειν αἰχμὴν* M, *ἐνδεικνυσιν αἰχμάν* recs.

⁷ Various, but altogether uncertain, emendations have been proposed to heal the defective responsion : *θ' ἐσπέριοι* Wecklein, *περθόμεναν* Dindorf, *δυρόμενοι* Fritzsche, *δακρυχέει* (with *στένουσα*, found in N) Herm

⁸ *ὑψίκρημον* θ' M, *ὑψίκρημον* schol. M.

⁹ *νέμουσι* M, *νέμονται* lemma schol. M recs.

AESCHYLUS

- 425 ¹[†μόνον δὴ² πρόσθεν ἄλλον ἐν πόνοις [ἐπῳδ.
δαμέντ' ἀδαμαντοδέτοις³
Τιτᾶνα λύμαις εἰσιδόμεν, θεόν,⁴
Ἄτλαντος [αἰὲν]⁵ ὑπέροχον⁶ σθένης κραταῖον,
<ὅς> οὐράνιον [τε] πόλον
430 νώτοις <στέγων>⁷ ὑποστενάζει.†]

βοᾷ δὲ πόντιος κλύδων [ἐπῳδ.
ξυμπίνων, στένει βυθός,⁸
κελαινὸς δ' Ἄιδος ὑποβρέμει μυχὸς γᾶς,
παγαί θ' ἀγνωρύτων ποταμῶν
435 στένουσιν ἄλγος οἰκτρὸν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- μή τοι χλιδῇ δοκεῖτε μηδ' αὐθαδία
σιγᾶν με· συννοία δὲ δάπτομαι κέαρ,
ὁρῶν ἐμαυτὸν ὧδε προυσελούμενον.⁹
καίτοι θεοῖσι τοῖς νέοις τούτοις γέρα
440 τίς ἄλλος ἢ ἡ γὼ παντελῶς διώρισεν;
ἀλλ' αὐτὰ σιγῶ· καὶ γὰρ εἰδυῖαισιν ἂν
ὑμῖν λέγοιμι· τὰν βροτοῖς δὲ πῆματα
ἀκούσαθ', ὥς σφας νηπίους ὄντας τὸ πρὶν
ἐννοὺς ἔθηκα καὶ φρενῶν ἐπηβόλους.
445 λέξω δέ, μέμψιν οὐτιν' ἀνθρώποις ἔχων,
ἀλλ' ὧν δέδωκ' εὐνοίαν ἐξηγούμενος·
οἳ πρῶτα μὲν βλέποντες ἔβλεπον μάτην,
κλύοντες οὐκ ἤκουον, ἀλλ' ὄνειράτων
ἀλίγκιοι μορφαῖσι τὸν μακρὸν βίον
450 ἔφυρον εἰκῇ πάντα, κοῦτε πλινθυφεῖς
δόμους προσείλους¹⁰ ᾔσαν, οὐ ξυλουργίαν·

¹ [125-130] Badham.

² δὴ M, δὲ recc.

³ ἀκαμαντοδέτοις M, ἀδαμαντοδέτοις F¹.

⁴ θεὸν M, θεῶν recc.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

[†One other Titan god alone have I ere now beheld in distress, enthralled in torment by adamantine bonds—even Atlas, pre-eminent in mighty strength, who moaneth the while as he supports the vault of heaven upon his back.†]

And the waves of the sea utter a cry as they fall, the deep laments, the black abyss of Hades rumbles in response, and the streams of pure-flowing rivers lament thy piteous pain.

PROMETHEUS

Nay, impute it not to pride nor yet to wilfulness that I am silent. Painful thoughts devour my heart as I behold myself maltreated thus. And yet who but I definitely assigned their prerogatives unto these upstart gods? But of this I speak not; for my tale would tell you naught save what ye know. But hearken to the miseries that beset mankind—how that they were witless erst and I made them to have sense and be endowed with reason. Nor will I speak to upbraid mankind, but to set forth the friendly purpose that inspired my boons.

First of all, though they had eyes to see, they saw to no avail; they had ears, but understood not; but, like to shapes in dreams, throughout their length of days, without purpose they wrought all things in confusion. Knowledge had they neither of houses built of bricks and turned to face the sun, nor yet of work in wood; but dwelt beneath the

⁵ ἀτλανθ' ὥς M, ἀτλανθ' ὅς recc.. Halm. [αἰέν] Halm.

⁶ ὑπείροχον M recc., ὑπέροχον HB. ⁷ <στέγων> Wecklein.

⁸ βαθὺς M, βυθός recc.

⁹ προσηλούμενον with ε over η M, προσελ. most recc., προσελοῦμενον Vat. 58, Reg. 155.

¹⁰ προσήλους with ει over η M.

AESCHYLUS

- κατώρυχες δ' ἔναιον ὥστ' ἀήσυροι
 μύρμηκες ἄντρων ἐν μυχοῖς ἀνηλίοις.
 ἦν δ' οὐδὲν αὐτοῖς οὔτε χείματος τέκμαρ
 455 οὔτ' ἀνθεμώδους ἥρος οὔτε καρπίμου
 θέρους βέβαιον, ἀλλ' ἄτερ γνώμης τὸ πᾶν
 ἔπρασσον, ἔστε δὴ σφιν ἀντολὰς ἐγὼ
 ἄστρον ἔδειξα τάς τε δυσκρίτους δύσεις.
 καὶ μὴν ἀριθμόν, ἕξοχον σοφισμάτων,¹
 460 ἐξηῦρον² αὐτοῖς, γραμμάτων τε συνθέσεις,
 μνήμην³ ἀπάντων, μουσομήτορ' ἐργάνην.⁴
 κᾶζευξα πρῶτος ἐν ζυγοῖσι κνώδαλα
 ζεύγλαισι δουλεύοντα σάγμασιν⁵ θ', ὅπως
 θνητοῖς μεγίστων διάδοχοι μοχθημάτων
 465 γένοινθ'⁶, ὑφ' ἄρμα τ' ἥγαγον φιληνίους
 ἵππους, ἀγαλμα τῆς ὑπερπλούτου χλιδῆς.
 θαλασσόπλαγκτα⁷ δ' οὔτις ἄλλος ἀντ' ἐμοῦ
 λινόπτερ' ἠῦρε⁸ ναυτίλων⁹ ὀχήματα.
 τοιαῦτα μηχανήματ' ἐξευρὼν τάλας
 470 βροτοῖσιν, αὐτὸς οὐκ ἔχω σόφισμ' ὅτῳ¹⁰
 τῆς νῦν παρούσης πημονῆς ἀπαλλαγῶ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- πέπονθας αἰκὲς¹¹ πῆμ'· ἀποσφαλεῖς φρενῶν
 πλανᾷ, κακὸς δ' ἱατρὸς ὥς τις ἐς νόσον
 πεσῶν ἀθυμεῖς καὶ σεαυτὸν οὐκ ἔχεις
 475 εὗρεῖν ὁποίοις φαρμάκοις ἰάσιμος.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τὰ λοιπά μου κλύουσα θαυμάσῃ πλέον,

¹ νομισμάτων M, σοφισμάτων marg. m¹, Stob. *Ecl.* ii. 4. 2.

² ἐξεῦρον M, ἐξηῦρον Stob. *Ecl.* ii. 4. 2.

³ μνήμην M, μνήμην θ' m¹ and other mss.

⁴ ἐργαν . . . M, ἐργάτιν m¹ (in crasure) and other mss.,
 ἐργάνην Stob. *Ecl.* ii. 4. 2.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

ground like swarming ants, in sunless caves. They had no sign either of winter or of flowery spring or of fruitful summer, whereon they could depend, but in everything they wrought without judgment, until such time as I taught them to discern the risings of the stars and their settings, ere this ill distinguishable.

Aye, and numbers, too, chiefest of sciences, I invented for them, and the combining of letters, creative mother of the Muses' arts, wherewith to hold all things in memory. I, too, first brought brute beasts beneath the yoke to be subject to the collar and the pack-saddle, that they might bear in men's stead their heaviest burdens; and to the chariot I harnessed horses and made them obedient to the rein, to be an adornment of wealth and luxury. 'Twas I and no one else that contrived the mariner's flaxen-winged car to roam the sea.

Wretched that I am—such are the inventions I devised for mankind, yet have myself no cunning wherewith to rid me of my present suffering.

CHORUS

Thou hast suffered sorrow and humiliation. Thou art forsaken of thy wits and art gone astray; and, like an unskilled leech, fallen ill, thou lovest heart and canst not discover what remedies to minister to thine own disease.

PROMETHEUS

Hear but the rest and thou shalt wonder the

⁵ σώμασιν : Pauw.

⁶ γένωνθ' : Dawes.

⁷ θαλασσόπλακτα M, θαλασσόπλαγκτα m.

⁸ εὔρε M.

⁹ ναυτιλόχων M, ναυτίλων recc.

¹⁰ σοφισμάτων M (δτω superscribed m¹). ¹¹ αἰκὴς : Porson.

AESCHYLUS

οἷας τέχνας τε καὶ πόρους ἐμησάμην.
 τὸ μὲν μέγιστον, εἴ τις ἐς¹ νόσον πέσοι,
 οὐκ ἦν ἀλέξημ' οὐδέν, οὔτε² βρώσιμον,
 480 οὐ χριστόν, οὐδὲ πιστόν, ἀλλὰ φαρμάκων
 χρεῖα κατεσκέλλοντο, πρὶν γ' ἐγὼ σφισιν
 ἐδειξά κράσεις ἡπίων ἀκεσμάτων,
 αἷς τὰς ἀπάσας ἐξαμύνονται νόσους.
 485 τρόπους τε πολλοὺς μαντικῆς ἐστοίχισα,
 καῖρινα πρῶτος ἐξ ὄνειράτων ἅ χρη
 ὕπαρ γενέσθαι, κληδόνας τε δυσκρίτους
 ἐγνώρισ' αὐτοῖς ἐνοδίους τε συμβόλους·
 γαμφωνύχων τε πτήσιν οἰωνῶν σκεθρῶς
 διώρισ', οἷτινές τε δεξιῶι φύσιν
 490 εὐωνύμους τε, καὶ δίαιταν ἦντινα
 ἔχουσ' ἕκαστοι, καὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους τίνες
 ἔχθραι τε καὶ στέργηθρα καὶ συνεδρῖαι·
 σπλάγχνων τε λειότητα, καὶ χροῖαν τίνα
 ἔχουσ'³ ἂν εἴη δαίμοσιν πρὸς ἡδονὴν
 495 χολή,⁴ λοβοῦ τε ποικίλην εὐμορφίαν·
 κνίσση τε κῶλα συγκαλυπτὰ καὶ μακρὰν
 ὀσφῦν πυρώσας δυστέκμαρτον ἐς τέχνην
 ᾧδωσα θνητούς, καὶ φλογωπὰ σήματα
 ἐξωμμάτωσα, πρόσθεν ὄντ' ἐπάργεμα.
 500 τοιαῦτα μὲν δὴ ταῦτ'· ἐνερθε δὲ χθονὸς
 κεκρυμμέν' ἀνθρώποισιν ὠφελήματα,
 χαλκόν, σίδηρον,⁵ ἄργυρον, χρυσόν τε τίς
 φήσειεν ἂν πάραιθεν ἐξευρεῖν ἐμοῦ;
 οὐδεῖς, σάφ' οἶδα, μὴ μάτην φλύσαι θέλων.
 505 βραχεὶ δὲ μύθῳ πάντα⁶ συλλήβδην μάθε,
 πᾶσαι τέχναι βροτοῖσιν ἐκ Προμηθέως.

¹ εἰς M most recc., ἐς recc.

³ ἔχοντ' : Wieseler.

² οὐδὲ M, οὔτε recc.

⁴ χολῆς : Wieseler.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

more at the arts and resources I devised. This first and foremost: if ever man fell ill, there was no defence—no healing food, no ointment, nor any draught—but for lack of medicine they wasted away, until I showed them how to mix soothing remedies wherewith they now ward off all their disorders. And I marked out many ways whereby they might read the future, and among dreams I first discerned which are destined to come true; and voices baffling interpretation I explained to them, and signs from meetings by the way. The flight of crook-taloned birds I distinguished clearly—which by nature are auspicious, which sinister—their various modes of life, their mutual feuds and loves, and their consortings; and the smoothness of their entrails, and what colour the gall must have to please the gods, and the speckled symmetry of the liver-lobe; and the thigh-bones, enwrapped in fat, and the long chine I burned and initiated mankind into an occult art. Also I cleared their vision to discern signs from flames, erstwhile obscure. So much then touching these arts. Now as to the benefits to men that lay concealed beneath the earth—bronze, iron, silver, and gold—who would claim to have discovered them before me? No one, I know full well, unless he were fain to babble idly. Hear the sum of the whole matter in the compass of one brief word—every art possessed by man comes from Prometheus.

⁵ σίδαρον M, σίδηρον recce.

⁶ ταῦτα M, πάντα recce.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μή νυν βροτοὺς μὲν ὠφέλει καιροῦ πέρα,
 σαυτοῦ δ' ἀκήδεις δυστυχοῦντος· ὥς ἐγὼ
 εὐελπίς εἰμι τῶνδ' ἐκ δεσμῶν ἔτι
 510 λυθέντα μηδὲν μείον ἰσχύσειν Διός.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

οὐ ταῦτα ταύτῃ Μοῖρά πω τελεσφόρος
 κρᾶναι πέπρωται, μυρίαῖς δὲ πημοναῖς
 δύαις τε καμφθεῖς ὧδε δεσμὰ φυγγάνω·
 τέχνη δ' ἀνάγκης ἀσθενεστέρα μακρῶ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

515 τίς οὖν ἀνάγκης ἐστὶν οἰακοστρόφος;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

Μοῖραι τρίμορφοι μνήμονές τ' Ἑρινύες.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τούτων ἄρα Ζεὺς ἐστὶν ἀσθενέστερος;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

οὐκ οὖν ἂν ἐκφύγοι γὰρ τὴν πεπρωμένην.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τί γὰρ πέπρωται Ζηνὶ πλήν¹ αἰὲ κρατεῖν;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

520 τοῦτ' οὐκέτ' ἂν² πύθοιο μηδὲ λιπάρει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἦ ποῦ τι σεμνόν ἐστιν ὃ ξυναμπέχεις.

¹ πρὶν M, πλὴν recc.

² οὐκ ἂν οὖν M, οὐκέτ' ἂν QFK.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

CHORUS

Do not then benefit mortals beyond due measure and yet be heedless of thine own distress ; forasmuch as I am of good hope that thou shalt yet be loosed from these bonds and have power no wise inferior to Zeus.

PROMETHEUS

Not thus, nor yet, is fulfilling Fate destined to bring this end to pass. When I have been bent by pangs and tortures infinite, thus only am I to escape my bondage. Art is feebler far than Necessity.

CHORUS

Who then is the steersman of Necessity ?

PROMETHEUS

The triform Fates and mindful Furies.

CHORUS

Can it be that Zeus hath lesser power than they ?

PROMETHEUS

Aye, in that at least he cannot escape what is foredoomed.

CHORUS

Why, what is foredoomed for Zeus save to hold eternal sway ?

PROMETHEUS

This thou must not learn as yet ; be not impertunate.

CHORUS

'Tis some solemn secret, surely, that thou dost enshroud in mystery.

AESCHYLUS

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἄλλου λόγου μέμνησθε, τόνδε δ' οὐδαμῶς
καιρὸς γεγωνεῖν, ἀλλὰ συγκαλυπτέος
ὅσον μάλιστα· τόνδε γὰρ σῶζων ἐγὼ
525 δεσμούς· ἀεικέϊς καὶ δῦας ἐκφυγγάνω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μηδὰμ' ὁ πάντα νέμων [στρ. α.
θεῖτ' ἐμᾷ γνώμα κράτος ἀντίπαλον Ζεὺς,
μηδ' ἐλινύσαιμι θεοὺς ὁσίοις θοί-
530 ναις ποτινισσομένα
βουφόνοις παρ' Ὠκεανοῦ πατρὸς ἄσβεστον
πόρον,
535 μηδ' ἀλίτοιμι λόγοις·
ἀλλά μοι τόδ' ἐμμένοι καὶ μήποτ' ἐκτακείη·
ἀδύ' τι θαρσαλέαις [ἀντ. α.
τὸν μακρὸν τείνειν βίον ἐλπίσι, φαναῖς
θυμὸν ἀλδαίνουσας ἐν εὐφροσύναις. φρίσ-
540 σω δέ σε δερκομένα
μυρίοις μόχθοις διακναιόμενον - - - .
Ζῆνα γὰρ οὐ τρομέων
ἰδίᾳ γνώμα σέβῃ θνατοὺς ἄγαν, Προμηθεῦ.
545 φέρ' ὅπως ἄχαρις χάρις,² ᾧ φίλος. [στρ. β.
εἰπὲ ποῦ τίς³ ἀλκά;
τίς ἐφ' ἀμερίων ἄρηξις; οὐδ' ἐδέρχθης
ὀλιγοδρανίαν ἄκικυν,
ἰσόνειρον, ᾧ τὸ φωτῶν
550 ἀλαὸν γένος ἐμπεποδισμένον; οὐποτε - -
τὰν Διὸς ἁρμονίαν θνατῶν παρεξίασι βουλαί.
ἔμαθον τάδε σὰς προσιδούσ'⁴ ὅλο- [ἀντ. β.
ὰς τύχας, Προμηθεῦ.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

PROMETHEUS

Bethink ye of some other theme, for 'tis in no wise meet time to discourse of this. At every hazard this must be kept concealed; for 'tis by safeguarding it that I am to escape my ignominious bonds and outrage.

CHORUS

Never may Zeus, the dispenser of all things, set his power in conflict with my will, nor may I be slow to approach the gods, with holy sacrifices of oxen slain, by the side of the ceaseless stream of Oceanus, my sire; and may I not offend in speech; but may this rule abide in my heart and never fade away.

Sweet it is to pass all the length of life amid confident hopes, feeding fat the heart in glad festivities. But I shudder as I look on thee, racked by tortures infinite. For thou hast no fear of Zeus, Prometheus, but in self-will dost reverence mortals overmuch.

See now, my friend, how bootless was thy boon. Tell me, what succour for thee is there, and where, in creatures of a day? What aid? Didst thou not behold the helpless infirmity, no better than a dream, wherein the purblind generation of men is shackled? Never shall the counsels of mortal men transgress the ordering of Zeus.

This is the lesson I have learned from beholding the fate, Prometheus, that has wrought thy ruin.

¹ ἡδύ: Hermann.

² χάρις ἀχαρίς mss. except N (ἀχαρίς χάρις).

³ τις M, τίς recc.

⁴ προιδούσ' M, προσιδούσ' recc.

AESCHYLUS

555 τὸ διαμφίδιον δέ μοι μέλος προσέπτα
τόδ' ἐκεῖνό θ' ὅ τ'¹ ἀμφὶ λουτρὰ
καὶ λέχος σὸν ὑμεναῖον
560 ἰότατι γάμων, ὅτε τὰν ὁμοπάτριον ἔδνοις
ἄγαγες Ἑσιόναν πείθων² δάμαρτα κοινόλεκτρον.

ΙΩ

τίς γῆ; τί γένος; τίνα φῶ λεύσσειν
τόνδε χαλινοῖς³ ἐν πετρίνοισιν
χειμαζόμενον;
τίνος ἀμπλακίας ποιναὶς ὀλέκη;
σήμενον ὅποι
γῆς ἢ μογερά πεπλάνημαι.
565 ᾠ ᾠ, ἔ ἔ,⁴
χρίει τις αὖ με τὰν⁵ τάλαιναν οἷστρος,⁶
εἰδωλον Ἄργου γηγενοῦς, ἄλευ' ᾠ δᾠ.⁷
φοβοῦμαι⁸
τὸν μυριωπὸν εἰσορώσα βούταν.
570 ὁ δὲ πορεύεται δόλιον ὅμμ' ἔχων,
ὃν οὐδὲ κατθανόντα γαῖα κεύθει.
ἀλλ' ἐμέ τὰν τάλαιναν
ἐξ ἐνέρων περῶν κυναγετεῖ,⁹ πλανᾷ
τε νῆστιν ἀνὰ τὰν παραλίαν ψάμμαν.
575 ὑπὸ δὲ κηρόπακτος¹⁰ ὀτοβεῖ δόναξ [στρ. α.
ἀχέτας ὑπνοδόταν νόμον.
ἰὼ ἰὼ πόποι,¹¹ ποῖ¹² μ' ἄγουσι τη-

¹ ἐκεῖν' ὅτε τότ' M, ἐκεῖνό τε ὅτ' or ἐκεῖνό θ' ὅτ' recc. : Vict.

² πείθων M, πιθῶν m¹. ³ χαλινοῖσιν M, χαλινοῖς recc.

⁴ ᾠ ᾠ ἔ ἔ M, ᾠ ᾠ ἔα ἔα most recc.

⁵ με M, με τὰν recc.

⁶ οἷστροις M, οἷστρος m¹.

⁷ ἄλευ or ἄλευ' ᾠ δᾠ M (blurred), ἀλενάδα schol. M recc.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

And the difference in the strain stole into my thought—this strain and that, which, about thy bridal bed and bath, I raised to grace thy marriage, what time thou didst woo with gifts and win my sister Hesione to be thy wedded wife.

[Enter Io¹

Io

What land is this? What people? By what name am I to call him I behold exposed to the tempest in bonds of rock? What offence hast thou committed that for penalty thou art doomed to destruction? Tell me to what region of the earth I have wandered in my wretchedness? Oh, oh! Again a gad-fly, phantom of earth-born Argus, stings me to my misery. Keep him aloof, O Earth! I am fearful when I behold that myriad-eyed herdsman. He travels onward with his crafty gaze upon me; nor even in death doth the earth conceal him, but passing from the shades he hounds me, the forlorn one, and drives me famished along the sands of the sea-shore.

And the clear-sounding wax-compacted pipe drones forth in accompaniment a slumberous strain. Alas, alas! Whither am I borne in my far-roaming

¹ In vase-paintings after the time of Aeschylus, and possibly due to his influence, Io was often represented as wearing horns to symbolize her transformation into a heifer. The pure beast-type was the rule in earlier vases.

⁸ φοβοῦμαι almost all mss.

⁹ κυνηγετεῖ: Biunck.

¹⁰ κηρόπλαστος: Memeke.

¹¹ ποῖ ποῖ π' οἱ π' ὅπ' οἱ M: Scidler.

¹² πῆ M, ποῖ rec.

AESCHYLUS

λέπλαγκτοι πλάναι¹;
 τί ποτέ μ', ὦ Κρόνιε παῖ, τί ποτε ταῖσδ'
 ἐνέζευξας εὐρών ἀμαρτοῦσαν ἐν
 580 πημοναῖσιν; ἔ' ἔ',²
 οἰστρηλάτῳ δὲ δείματι
 δειλαίαν παράκοπον ὦδε τείρεις;
 πυρί <με>³ φλέξον, ἥ χθονὶ κάλυψον, ἥ
 ποντίοις⁴ δάκεσι δὸς βοράν,
 μηδέ μοι φθονήσης
 εὐγμάτων, ἄναξ.
 585 ἄδην με πολύπλανοι πλάναι
 γεγυμνάκασιν, οὐδ' ἔχω μαθεῖν ὅπα⁵
 πημονὰς ἀλύξω.
 κλύεις φθέγμα τῆς βούκερω παρθένου;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

πῶς δ' οὐ κλύω τῆς οἰστροδινητοῦ κόρης,
 590 τῆς Ἰναχείας; ἥ Διὸς θάλπει κέαρ
 ἔρωτι, καὶ νῦν τοὺς ὑπερμήκεις δρόμους
 Ἥρα στυγητὸς πρὸς βίαν γυμνάζεται.

ΙΩ

πόθεν ἐμοῦ σὺ πατρός ὄνομ' ἀπύεις; [ἀντ. α.
 εἰπέ μοι τῇ μογερεῖ τίς ὢν;
 595 τίς ἄρα μ', ὦ τάλας, τὰν τάλαιναν' ὦδ'
 ἔτυμα προσθροεῖς;
 θεόσυτόν⁸ τε νόσον ὠνόμασας, ἃ
 μαραίνει με χρίουσα κέντροις, <ἰώ>,⁹
 φοιταλέοισιν,¹⁰ ἔ' ἔ'.¹¹

¹ πλάνοι M, πλάναι m¹.

³ <με> Elmsley.

² ἔ' ἔ' recc.

⁴ ποντίοισι M, ποντίοις recc.

⁵ ὅπη: Schütz.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

wandering course? Wherein, O son of Cronus, wherein hast thou found offence in me that thou hast bound me to this yoke of misery—ah me! and dost thus harass a wretched maiden to frenzy by the terror of the pursuing gad-fly? Consume me with fire, or hide me in the earth, or give me to the monsters of the deep to devour; and grudge me not, O Lord, the boon that I implore. Enough of discipline have my far-roaming wanderings taught me, and I cannot discern how to escape my sufferings. Dost thou hear the voice of the horned virgin?

PROMETHEUS

How can I fail to hear the maiden frenzied by the gad-fly, the daughter of Inachus? She it is who fires the heart of Zeus with passion, and now, through Hera's hate, is disciplined perforce by wandering interminable.

Io

How comes it that thou voicest my father's name? Tell me, the hapless maid, who art thou, unhappy wretch, that thou thus rightly dost address the miserable maiden, and hast named the heaven-sent plague that wastes and stings me with its maddening goad. Ah me!

⁶ l. 588 given to Io by Elmsley, to Chorus by MSS.

⁷ *ταλαίπωρον*: Wilam.

⁸ *θεόσσυντόν* most MSS., *θεόσυντόν* N.

⁹ *κέντροισι*: *κέντροις*, *l'w* Reisig.

¹⁰ *φοιταλέοισιν* most MSS., *φοιταλέοις* N.

¹¹ *ε' ε' M.*

AESCHYLUS

600 σκιρτημάτων δὲ νήστισιν
 αἰκείαις¹ λαβρόσυτος² ἦλθον, <ῥΗρας>³
 ἐπικότοισι μῆδεσι δαμείσα. δυσ-
 δαιμόνων δὲ τίνες οἷ, ἔἔ,
 οἷ² ἐγὼ μογοῦσιν;
 ἀλλὰ μοι τορῶς
 605 τέκμηρον ὅ τι μ' ἐπαμμένει
 παθεῖν, τί μῆχαρ,⁴ ἢ τί φάρμακον νόσου,
 δεῖξον, εἴπερ οἶσθα.
 θρόει, φράζε τᾷ⁵ δυσπλάνῳ παρθένω.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

610 λέξω τορῶς σοι πᾶν ὅπερ⁶ χρήζεις μαθεῖν,
 οὐκ ἐμπλέκων αἰνίγματ', ἀλλ' ἀπλῶ λόγῳ,
 ὥσπερ δίκαιον πρὸς φίλους οἴγειν στόμα.
 πυρὸς βροτοῖς δοτῆρ' ὄρᾳς Προμηθέα.

ΙΩ

ὦ κοινὸν ὠφέλημα θνητοῖσιν φανείς,
 τλήμον Προμηθεῦ, τοῦ δίκην πάσχεις τάδε;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

615 ἄρμοι πέπαυμαι τοὺς ἐμοὺς θρηγνῶν πόνους.

ΙΩ

οὐκουν πόροις ἂν τήνδε δωρεὰν ἐμοί;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

λέγ' ἦντιν' αἰτῇ⁷. πᾶν γὰρ ἂν⁸ πύθοιό μου.

ΙΩ

σήμηνον ὅστις ἐν φάραγγί σ' ὥχμασεν.

¹ αἰκείαις: Filmsley.

² λαβρόσυτος most mss., λαβρόσυτος N.

³ <ῥΗρας> Herm.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

In frenzied bounds I come, driven by torturing hunger, victim of Hera's vengeful purpose. Who of the company of the unfortunate endure—ah me!—sufferings such as mine? Oh make plain to me what misery it is my fate yet to suffer, what remedy there is, or what cure, of my affliction. Reveal it, if thou hast the knowledge. Oh speak, declare it to the hapless, wandering virgin.

PROMETHEUS

I will tell thee plainly all that thou art fain to know, not weaving riddles, but in simple language, even as is right to open the lips to friends. Behold, I whom thou seest am Prometheus, that gave fire unto mankind.

Io

O thou who hast shown thyself a common benefactor of mankind, wretched Prometheus, for what reason dost thou suffer thus?

PROMETHEUS

I have but just now done with lamenting my own calamities.

Io

Thou wilt not then vouchsafe this boon to me?

PROMETHEUS

Say what boon it is that thou dost crave; for thou canst learn all from me.

Io

Tell me who hath bound thee fast in this ravine.

⁴ τί μὴ χρῆ M: τί μὴ χαρ, τί Elmsley, ἢ τί I. Fr. Martin.

⁵ φράζεε M, φράζε τῇ recc.

⁶ ὅτι: ὅπερ Porson from *Utt. Mag.* 762. 30.

⁷ αἰτέῖ M, αἰτῆ m.

⁸ γὰρ οὖν M, γὰρ ἄν Pgr.

AESCHYLUS

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

βούλευμα μὲν τὸ Δῖον, Ἑφαίστου δὲ χεῖρ.

ΙΩ

620 ποινὰς δὲ ποίων ἀμπλακημάτων τίνεις;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τοσοῦτον ἄρκῳ σοι σαφηνίσας¹ μόνον.

ΙΩ

καὶ πρὸς γε τούτοις τέρμα τῆς ἐμῆς πλάνης
δεῖξον, τίς ἔσται τῇ ταλαιπώρῳ χρόνος.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τὸ μὴ μαθεῖν σοι κρεῖσσον ἢ μαθεῖν τάδε.

ΙΩ

625 μήτοι με κρύψῃς τοῦθ' ὅπερ μέλλω παθεῖν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἀλλ' οὐ μεγάρῳ τοῦδέ σοι² δωρήματος.

ΙΩ

τί δῆτα μέλλεις μὴ οὐ³ γεγωνίσκειν τὸ πᾶν;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

φθόνος μὲν οὐδεῖς, σὰς δ' ὀκνῶ θραῶσαι φρένας.

ΙΩ

μή μου προκῆδον μάσσον ὥς ἐμοὶ γλυκύ.

¹ σαφηνῆσαι changed to σαφηνίσαι M: Linwood.

² τοῦδε τοῦ: Turn.

³ μὴ M, μὴ οὐ m.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

PROMETHEUS

Zeus by his will, Hephaestus by his hand.

Io

And of what manner of offence dost thou pay the penalty ?

PROMETHEUS

It sufficeth that I have made clear to thee thus much and no more.

Io

Nay, reveal besides the goal of my wandering—what time is set for wretched me.

PROMETHEUS

Ignorance of this were better for thee than to know thereof.

Io

Do not, I pray thee, hide from me what I am doomed to suffer.

PROMETHEUS

Nay, 'tis not that I am loath to grant this boon to thee.

Io

Why then this thy reluctance to tell me all ?

PROMETHEUS

I am nothing loath ; but I shrink to crush thy heart.

Io

Be not more kind to me than I myself desire.

AESCHYLUS

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

630 ἐπεὶ προθυμῇ, χρὴ λέγειν· ἄκουε δή.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μήπω γε· μοῖραν δ' ἡδονῆς κάμοι πόρε.
τὴν τῇσδε πρῶτον ἱστορήσωμεν νόσον,
αὐτῆς λεγούσης τὰς πολυφθόρους τύχας·
τὰ λοιπὰ δ' ἄθλων σοῦ διδαχθήτω πόρα.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

635 σὸν ἔργον, Ἴοι, ταῖσδ' ὑπουργῆσαι χάριν,
ἄλλως τε πάντως καὶ κασιγνήταις πατρός.
ὥς τὰποκλαῦσαι κάποδύρασθαι τύχας
ἐνταῦθ', ὅπου¹ μέλλοι τις οἴσεσθαι δάκρυ
πρὸς τῶν κλυόντων, ἀξίαν τριβὴν ἔχει.

ΙΩ

640 οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως ὑμῖν ἀπιστήσαί με χρὴ,
σαφεῖ δὲ μύθῳ πᾶν ὅπερ προσχρήζετε
πεύσεσθε· καίτοι καὶ λέγουσ' αἰσχύνομαι²
θεόσσυτον χειμῶνα καὶ διαφθορὰν
μορφῆς, ὅθεν μοι σχετλία προσέπτατο.

645 αἰεὶ γὰρ ὄψεις ἐννυχοὶ πωλεύμεναι
ἐς παρθενῶνας τοὺς ἐμοὺς παρηγόρουν
λείοισι μύθοις “ὦ μέγ' εὐδαιμον³ κόρη,
τί παρθελεύει δαρὸν, ἐξόν σοι γάμου
τυχεῖν μεγίστου; Ζεὺς γὰρ ἡμέρου βέλει
650 πρὸς σοῦ τέθαλπται καὶ συναίρεσθαι Κύπριν
θέλει· σὺ δ', ὦ παῖ, μὴ 'πολακτίσης λέχος
τὸ Ζηνός, ἀλλ' ἔξελθε πρὸς Λέρνης βαθύν

¹ ὅπου most mss., ὅποι P²B², ὅπη QKL.

² αἰσχύνομαι m N, ὀδύρομαι M and most mss.

³ εὐδαιμων M, εὐδαιμον m.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

PROMETHEUS

Since thou art bent to have it so, speak I must.
Hear me then.

CHORUS

Nay, not yet. Grant us too a portion of the pleasure. Let us first inquire the story of her affliction and let her with her own lips relate the events that brought upon her sore calamity. Then let her be instructed by thee as to the toils still to come.

PROMETHEUS

'Tis for thee, Io, to grant this favour unto them—and for this cause above all, that they are the sisters of thy sire. For 'tis worth the while to indulge in weeping and in wailing over evil fortunes when one is like to win the tribute of a tear from the listener.

Io

I know not how I may refuse you. Ye shall learn in truthful speech all that ye would further know. Yet I am ashamed even in telling of the storm of calamity sent of Heaven, of the marring of my form, and of the source whence it swooped upon me, wretched that I am.

For visions of the night, ever haunting my virgin bower, sought to beguile me with seductive words, saying: "O damsel greatly blest of fortune, why tarry in thy maidenhood so long when it is within thy power to win a union of the highest? Zeus is inflamed by thee with passion's dart and is eager to unite in love with thee. Do thou, my child, not spurn the bed of Zeus, but go thou forth to Lerna's meadow land of pastures deep and to thy

AESCHYLUS

λειμῶνα, ποίμνας βουστάσεις τε πρὸς πατρός,
ὡς ἂν τὸ Δῖον ὄμμα λωφήσῃ πόθου.”

- 655 τοιοῖσδε πάσας εὐφρόνας ὀνείρασι
συνειχόμεν δύστηνος, ἔσπε δὴ πατρὶ
ἔτλην γεγωνεῖν νυκτίφοιτ¹ ὀνείρατα.
ὁ δ' ἔς τε Πυθῶ καπὶ Δωδώνης πυκνοὺς
θεοπρόπους ἵαλλεν, ὡς μάθοι τί χρὴ
660 δρῶντ' ἢ λέγοντα δαίμοσιν πράσσειν φίλα.²
ἦκον δ' ἀναγγέλλοντες αἰολοστόμους
χρησμοὺς ἀσήμους δυσκρίτως τ' εἰρημένους.
τέλος δ' ἐναργῆς βάξις ἦλθεν Ἰνάχῳ
σαφῶς ἐπισκῆπτουσα καὶ μυθουμένη
665 ἔξω δόμων τε καὶ πάτρας ὠθεῖν ἐμέ,
ἄφετον ἀλᾶσθαι γῆς ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις ὄροις.
κεῖ μὴ θέλοι, πυρωπὸν³ ἐκ Διὸς μολεῖν
κεραυνόν, ὃς πᾶν ἐξαῖστώσοι⁴ γένος.

- τοιοῖσδε πεισθεὶς Λοξίου μαντεύμασιν
670 ἐξήλασέν με κατέκλεψε δωμάτων
ἄκουσαν ἄκων· ἀλλ' ἐπηνάγκαζέ νιν
Διὸς χαλινὸς πρὸς βίαν πράσσειν τάδε.
εὐθύς δὲ μορφὴ καὶ φρένες διάστροφοι
ἦσαν, κεραστὶς δ', ὡς ὀράτ', ὀξυστόμῳ
675 μύωπι χρισθεῖς⁵ ἐμμανεῖ σκιρτήματι
ῥῖσσον πρὸς εὐποτόν τε Κερχνεῖας ῥέος
Λέρνης τε κρήνην⁶. βουκόλος δὲ γηγενῆς
ἄκρατος ὀργῇ Ἄργος ὠμάρτει, πυκνοῖς
ὄσσοις δεδορκῶς τοὺς ἐμούς κατὰ στίβους.
680 ἀπροσδόκητος δ' αὐτὸν ἀφνίδιος⁶ μόρος
τοῦ ζῆν ἀπεστέρησεν. οἰστροπλήξ δ' ἐγὼ
μάστιγι θεῖα γῆν προῖ γῆς ἐλαύνομαι.

κλύεις τὰ πραχθέντ'. εἰ δ' ἔχεις εἰπεῖν ὅ τι⁸

¹ νυκτίφαντ' M, νυκτίφοιτ' recc.

² φίλῳ M, φίλα m¹.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

father's flocks and where his cattle browse, that so the eye of Zeus may find respite from its longing."

By such dreams was I, to my distress, beset night after night, until at last I gained courage to tell my father of the dreams that haunted me. And he sent many a messenger to Pytho and Dodona-ward that he might discover what deed or word of his would find favour with the gods. But they returned with report of oracles, riddling, obscure, and darkly worded. But at the last there came an unmistakable utterance unto Inachus, charging and commanding him clearly that he must thrust me forth from home and native land to roam at large to the remotest confines of the earth; and, if he would not, a fiery thunderbolt should come from Zeus that would utterly bring to naught his whole race.

Yielding obedience to such prophetic utterances of Loxias, he drove me forth and barred me from his house, against his will and mine; but the curb of Zeus constrained him so to act perforce. Forthwith my form and mind were distorted, and with horns, as ye see, upon my front, stung by a sharp-fanged gad-fly I rushed with frantic bounds to Cerchnea's sweet stream and Lerna's spring. But the earth-born herdsman, untempered in his rage, even Argus, followed ever close upon me, peering with his many eyes upon my steps. But a sudden death reft him of life at unawares; while I, still tormented by the gad-fly, am driven on from land to land before the heaven-sent scourge.

Such is the tale of what befel; and if thou canst

³ πυρωτων M, πυρωτων recc.

⁴ ἐξαιστώσει: Blomfield.

⁵ ἄκρην τε: Canter.

⁶ αἰφνίδιος: Elmsley.

⁷ πρὸ most MSS., πρὸς m LN.

⁸ ἔτι most MSS., ὅτι V¹ Aldina.

AESCHYLUS

λοιπὸν πόνων, σήμαινε· μηδέ μ' οἰκτίσας
 685 ξύνθαλπε μύθοις ψευδέσιν· νόσημα γὰρ
 αἷσχιστον εἶναί φημι συνθέτους λόγους.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἔα ἔα, ἄπεχε, φεῦ·
 οὐπότ' οὐποτ' ἠύχουν¹ <ᾧδε>² ξένους
 μολεῖσθαι λόγους εἰς ἀκοὰν ἐμάν,
 690 οὐδ' ᾧδε δυσθέατα καὶ³ δύσοιστα
 πήματα, λύματα, [δείματα]⁴ ἀμ-
 φάκει⁵ κέντρῳ τύψειν⁶ ψυχὰν ἐμάν.
 ἰὼ [ἰὼ]⁷ μοῖρα μοῖρα,
 695 πέφρικ' εἰσιδοῦσα⁸ πρᾶξιν Ἰοῦς.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

πρῶ γε στενάζεις καὶ φόβου πλέα τις εἰ
 ἐπίσχες ἔστ' ἂν καὶ τὰ λοιπὰ προσμάθης.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

λέγ', ἐκδίδασκε· τοῖς νοσοῦσί τοι γλυκὺ
 τὸ λοιπὸν ἄλγος προυξεπίστασθαι τορῶς.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τὴν πρὶν γε χρεῖαν⁹ ἠνύσασθ' ἐμοῦ πάρα
 κούφως· μαθεῖν γὰρ τῇσδε πρῶτ' ἐχρήζετε
 τὸν ἀμφ' ἐαυτῆς ἀθλον ἐξηγουμένης·
 τὰ λοιπὰ νῦν ἀκούσαθ', οἷα χρή πάθῃ
 τλῆναι πρὸς Ἥρας τήνδε τὴν νεάνίδα.
 700 σύ τ', Ἰνάχειον σπέρμα, τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους
 705 θυμῷ βάλλ',¹⁰ ὥς ἂν τέρματ' ἐκμάθης ὁδοῦ.

¹ ἠύχουμν M, ἠύχουν schol. M recce.

² <ᾧδε> Wilam. (as second word, Weckl.).

³ δυσθέατα M, δυσθέατα καὶ recce.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

declare what toils still remain, oh reveal them. Do not, of thy pity, seek to cozen me by words untrue; for foulest of plagues do I account dissembling words.

CHORUS

Ah, ah, avaunt, alas! Never, oh never, did I dream that words so strange would greet mine ears; nor yet that sufferings so grievous to look upon, aye and so grievous to endure, a tale of outrage, would smite my soul as with double-pronged goad. Alas, O Fate, O Fate, I shudder at beholding the plight that hath befallen Io.

PROMETHEUS

Too soon thou makest lament and art full of fear. Forbear until thou hast learned the rest as well.

CHORUS

Proceed, tell all. To the sick 'tis solace clearly to know beforehand what pain still awaiteth them.

PROMETHEUS

Your former request ye lightly gained from me; for ye desired first of all to learn from her own lips the story of her ordeal. Hear now the sequel, the sufferings this maid is fated to endure at Hera's hand. And do thou, offspring of Inachus, lay to heart my words that thou mayest learn the goal of thy wanderings.

⁴ [δέιματα] Herm. ⁵ ἀμφήκει: Weil. ⁶ ψύχριν: Wilam.

⁷ [ἰώ] Weil.

⁸ ἐσιδοῦσα M, εἰσιδοῦσα recc.

⁹ χρεῖαν τ' M, χρεῖαν recc.

¹⁰ μάθ' M, βάλ' recc.

AESCHYLUS

- πρῶτον μὲν ἐνθένδ' ἡλίου πρὸς ἀντολὰς
 στρέψασα σαυτὴν στεῖχ' ἀνηρότους γύας·
 Σκύθας δ' ἀφίξῃ νομάδας, οἱ πλεκτὰς στέγας
 710 πεδάρσιοι ναίουσ'¹ ἐπ' εὐκύκλοις ὄχοις,
 ἐκηβόλοις τόξοισιν ἐξηρτυμένοι².
 οἷς μὴ πελάζειν, ἀλλ' ἀλιστόνοις πόδας³
 χρίμπτουσα ραχίαισιν ἐκπερᾶν χθόνα.
 λαιᾶς δὲ χειρὸς οἱ σιδηροτέκτονες
 715 οἰκοῦσι Χάλυβες, οὓς φυλάξασθαί σε χρή.
 ἀνήμεροι γὰρ οὐδὲ πρόσπλατοι⁴ ξένοις.
 ἦξεις δ' Ὑβριστὴν ποταμὸν οὐ ψευδώνυμον,
 ὃν μὴ περάσῃς, οὐ γὰρ εὖβατος περᾶν,
 720 πρὶν ἂν πρὸς αὐτὸν Καύκασον μόλῃς, ὁρῶν
 ὑψιστον, ἔνθα ποταμὸς ἐκφυσᾷ μένος
 κροτάφων ἀπ' αὐτῶν. ἀστρογείτονας δὲ χρή
 κορυφὰς ὑπερβάλλουσιν ἐς μεσημβρινὴν
 βῆναι κέλευθον, ἔνθ' Ἀμαζόνων στρατὸν
 ἦξεις στυγάνορ', αἱ Θεμίσκυράν ποτε
 725 κατοικιοῦσιν⁵ ἀμφὶ Θερμώδονθ', ἵνα
 τραχεῖα πόντου Σαλμυδησσία γνάθος
 ἐχθρόξενος ναύταισι, μητρυνᾷ⁶ νεῶν.
 αὐταί σ' ὀδηγήσουσι καὶ μάλ' ἀσμένως.
 ἰσθμὸν δ' ἐπ' αὐταῖς στενοπόροις λίμνης πύλαις
 730 Κιμμερικὸν ἦξεις, ὃν θρασυσπλάγχχνως σε χρή
 λιποῦσαν αὐλῶν' ἐκπερᾶν Μαιωτικόν·
 ἔσται δὲ θνητοῖς εἰσαεὶ λόγος μέγας
 τῆς σῆς πορείας, Βόσπορος δ' ἐπώνυμος

¹ νέουσ' M, ναίουσ' recce.

² ἐξηρτημένοι most mss., ἐξηρτυμένοι Q¹.

³ γύποδας M, ων over as m¹: Twn.

⁴ πρόσπλαστοι: Elmsley.

⁵ κατοικιοῦσιν M, κατοικιοῦσιν m¹.

⁶ μητρυνᾷ M, μητρυνᾷ m¹.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

First, from this spot, turn thyself toward the rising sun and wend thy steps over untilled plains ; and thou shalt reach the Scythian nomads, who dwell, perched aloft, in wattled houses on strong-wheeled wains, and are accoutred with far-darting bows. Approach them not, but keeping thy feet nigh the rugged strand, whereon the sea breaks with a roar, pass on beyond their land. On the left hand dwell the workers in iron, the Chalybes, and of them thou must beware, since they are savage and not to be approached by strangers. Then thou shalt reach the river Hybristes,¹ which does not belie its name. Do not cross this—for it is hard to cross—until thou comest to Caucasus itself, loftiest of mountains, where from its very brows the river pours out its might in fury. Over its crests, which neighbour the stars, thou must pass and enter upon a southward course, wherein thou shalt reach the host of the Amazons, who loathe all men. They shall in time to come inhabit Themiscyra on the Thermodon, where, fronting the sea, is Salmydessus' rugged jaw, evil host of mariners, step-dame of ships. The Amazons will guide thee on thy way right gladly. Next, just at the narrow portals of the mere, thou shalt reach the Cimmerian isthmus. This thou must leave with stout heart and pass through the channel of Maeotis ; and ever after among mankind there shall be great mention of thy passing, and it shall be called after thee the

¹ Ὕβριστης, "Violent," from ὕβρις, "violence."

AESCHYLUS

735 κεκλήσεται. λιποῦσα δ' Εὐρώπης πέδον
 ἤπειρον ἤξεις Ἀσιάδ'. ἄρ' ὑμῖν δοκεῖ
 ὁ τῶν θεῶν τύραννος ἐς τὰ πάνθ' ὁμῶς
 βίαιος εἶναι; τῇδε γὰρ θνητῇ θεὸς
 χρηζὼν μιγῆναι τάσδ' ἐπέρριψεν πλάνας.
 740 πικροῦ δ' ἔκυρσας, ὦ κόρη, τῶν σῶν γάμων
 μνηστῆρος. οὐς γὰρ νῦν ἀκήκοας λόγους,
 εἶναι δόκει σοι μηδέπω ν¹ προοιμίους.

ΙΩ

ὦ μοί μοι, ἔ ἔ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

σὺ δ' αὖ κέκραγας κἀναμυχθίζῃ; τί που
 δράσεις, ὅταν τὰ λοιπὰ πυνθάνῃ κακά;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

745 ἦ γάρ τι λοιπὸν τῇδε πημάτων ἐρεῖς;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

δυσχείμερόν γε πέλαγος ἀτηρᾶς δύης.

ΙΩ

750 τί δῆτ' ἐμοὶ ζῆν κέρδος, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐν τάχει
 ἔρριψ' ἐμαυτὴν τῆσδ' ἀπὸ στύφλου πέτρας,
 ὅπως πέδοι² σκήψασα τῶν πάντων πόνων
 ἀπηλλάγην; κρεῖσσον γὰρ εἰσάπαξ θανεῖν
 ἢ τὰς ἀπάσας ἡμέρας πάσχειν κακῶς.

¹ μηδ ἐπῶν : Turn.

² πέδω : Dindorf.

¹ Βόσπορος, by popular etymology derived from βοῦς and πόρος, "passing of the cow" (cp. *Ox-ford*), is, according to Wecklein, a Thracian form of Φωσφόρος, "light-bearing," an epithet of the goddess Hecate. The dialectal form, once

PROMETHEUS BOUND

Bosporus.† Then, leaving the soil of Europe, thou shalt come to the Asian continent.

Doth it not seem to you that the tyrant of the gods is violent in all his ways alike? For this god, desirous of union with this mortal maid, has imposed upon her these wanderings. Maiden, thou hast gained a suitor for thy hand whom thou hast cause to rue. As to the tale thou now hast heard—believe that it has not even reached the prelude.

Io

Ah me, ah me, alas!

PROMETHEUS

What! Dost again cry out and groan? What wilt thou do, I wonder, when thou hast learned the sufferings still in store for thee?

CHORUS

What! Can it be that thou hast sufferings still left to recount to her?

PROMETHEUS

Aye, a tempestuous sea of calamitous distress.

Io

What gain have I then in life? Why did I not hurl myself amain from this rugged rock, that so I had been dashed to earth and freed from all my sufferings? Better it were to die once for all than linger out all my days in misery.

misunderstood, was then, it is conjectured, transferred from the Thracian (cp. *Pers.* 746) to the Crimean strait. In the *Suppliants* Aeschylus makes Io cross the *Thracian Bosporus*.

AESCHYLUS

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

755 ἥ δυσπετῶς¹ ἂν τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἄθλους φέροις,
ὅτῳ θανεῖν μὲν ἔστιν οὐ πεπρωμένον·
αὕτη γὰρ ἦν ἂν πημάτων ἀπαλλαγὴ·
νῦν δ' οὐδέν ἐστι τέρμα μοι προκείμενον
μόχθων, πρὶν ἂν Ζεὺς ἐκπέσῃ τυραννίδος.

ΙΩ

ἥ γάρ ποτ' ἔστιν ἐκπεσεῖν ἀρχῆς Δία;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἦδοι' ἂν,² οἶμαι, τήνδ' ἰδοῦσα συμφορὰν.

ΙΩ

πῶς δ' οὐκ ἂν, ἥτις ἐκ Διὸς πάσχω κακῶς;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

760 ὥς τοίνυν ὄντων τῶνδ' ἐσσι μαθεῖν³ πάρα.

ΙΩ

πρὸς τοῦ τύραννα σκῆπτρα συληθήσεται;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

πρὸς αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ κενοφρόνων βουλευμάτων.

ΙΩ

ποίῳ τρόπῳ; σήμερον, εἰ μὴ τις βλάβη.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

γαμιεῖ γάμον τοιοῦτον ᾧ ποτ' ἀσχαλᾷ.

¹ ἡδυσπετῶς changed to ἡδυσπετῶς M, ἡ δυσπετῶς recc.

² ἡδοίμ' ἂν most mss., ἡδοι' ἂν HN.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

PROMETHEUS

Ah, hardly would'st thou bear my agonies to whom it is not foredoomed to die ; for death had freed me from my sufferings. But now no limit to my tribulations has been appointed till Zeus be hurled from his sovereignty.

Io

What ! Shall Zeus one day be hurled from his dominion ?

PROMETHEUS

Thou wouldst rejoice, I trow, to see that happen.

Io

How should I not, since 'tis at the hand of Zeus I suffer ill ?

PROMETHEUS

Then thou mayest assure thyself that these things are so.

Io

By whom shall he be despoiled of the sceptre of his sovereignty ?

PROMETHEUS

By himself and his own empty-headed purposes.

Io

In what wise ? Oh tell me, if there be no harm in telling.

PROMETHEUS

He shall make a marriage that shall one day cause him ruth.

³ μαθεῖν σοι (ν σοι in erasure M) most mss., σοι μαθεῖν N.

AESCHYLUS

ΙΩ

765 θέορτον, ἢ βρότειον; εἰ ῥητόν, φράσον.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τί δ' ὄντιν'; οὐ γὰρ ῥητόν αὐδαῖσθαι τόδε.

ΙΩ

ἦ πρὸς δάμαρτος ἐξανίσταται θρόνων;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἦ τέξεταί γε παῖδα φέρτερον πατρός.

ΙΩ

οὐδ' ἔστιν αὐτῷ τῇσδ' ἀποστροφῇ τύχης;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

770 οὐ δῆτα, πλὴν ἔγωγ' ἂν ἐκ δεσμῶν λυθείς.

ΙΩ

τίς οὖν ὁ λύσων ἐστὶν ἄκοντος Διός;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τῶν σῶν τιν' αὐτὸν¹ ἐγγόνων εἶναι χρεών.

ΙΩ

πῶς εἶπας; ἦ 'μὸς παῖς σ' ἀπαλλάξει κακῶν;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τρίτος γε γένναν πρὸς δέκ' ἄλλαισιν γοναῖς.

ΙΩ

775 ἦδ' οὐκέτ' εὐξύμβλητος ἡ χρησιμωδία.

¹ αὐτῶν M, αὐτὸν recce.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

Io

With one divine of birth or with a mortal ? If it may be told, speak out.

PROMETHEUS

Why ask with whom ? Of this I may not speak.

Io

Is it by his consort that he shall be dethroned ?

PROMETHEUS

Aye, since she shall bear a son mightier than his sire.

Io

And hath he no means to avert this doom ?

PROMETHEUS

No, none—except it were I, released from bondage.

Io

Who then is to loose thee against the will of Zeus ?

PROMETHEUS

It is to be one of thine own lineage.

Io

How sayest thou ? A child of mine release thee from thy misery ?

PROMETHEUS

Even so—the third in descent after ten generations.

Io

Here it is beyond my power easily to grasp the purport of thy prophecy.

AESCHYLUS

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

καὶ μηδὲ σαυτῆς¹ ἐκμαθεῖν ζήτει πόνους.

ΙΩ

μή μοι προτείνων κέρδος εἴτ' ἀποστέρει.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

δυοῖν λόγοιν σε θατέρω δωρήσομαι.

ΙΩ

ποίοιν; πρόδειξον, αὔρεσίν τ' ἐμοὶ δίδου.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

780 δίδωμ'. ἐλοῦ γάρ, ἢ πόνων τὰ λοιπά σοι
φράσω σαφηνῶς, ἢ τὸν ἐκλύσουτ' ἐμέ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τούτων σὺ τὴν μὲν τῇδε, τὴν δ' ἐμοὶ χάριν
θέσθαι θέλησον, μηδ' ἀτιμάσης λόγου².
καὶ τῇδε μὲν γέγωνε τὴν λοιπὴν πλάνην,
785 ἐμοὶ δὲ τὸν λύσουντα· τοῦτο γὰρ ποθῶ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἐπεὶ προθυμεῖσθ', οὐκ ἐναντιώσομαι
τὸ μὴ οὐ³ γεγωνεῖν πᾶν ὅσον προσχρήζετε.
σοὶ πρῶτον, Ἰοῖ, πολύδονον πλάνην φράσω,
ἣν ἐγγράφου σὺ μνήμοσιν δέλτοις φρενῶν.
790 ὅταν περάσης ῥεῖθρον ἡπείροιν⁴ ὄρον,
πρὸς ἀντολὰς φλογῶπας ἡλιοστιβεῖς⁵

¹ σαυτῆς τ' M, σαυτῆς recce.

³ μὴ M, μὴ οὐ m.

² λόγους· Elmsley.

⁴ ἡπείρων: Herwerden.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

PROMETHEUS

Aye, and so seek not to learn the full extent of
thine own sufferings.

Io

Do not proffer me a boon and then withdraw it.

PROMETHEUS

I will present thee with one or other of two tales.

Io

What two? Set them forth and offer me the
choice.

PROMETHEUS

I make the offer: so take thy choice whether I
shall reveal the sufferings still in store for thee or
who is to be my deliverer.

CHORUS

Consent to bestow on her the one of these favours,
and on me the other; and deny me not the tale. To
her, tell of her further wanderings; to me, who
is to deliver thee—for this I am fain to know.

PROMETHEUS

Well, since ye art bent thereon, I will not refuse to
proclaim all ye still crave to know. First, to thee, Io,
will I declare thy much-vexed wandering, and do
thou engrave it on the recording tablets of thy
mind.

When thou hast crossed the stream that bounds
the two continents, toward the flaming east, where

⁵ Lacuna of one or more lines (there is no main clause):
Brunck, Heath.

AESCHYLUS

πόντον¹ περῶσα φλοῖσβον, ἔστ' ἂν ἐξίκη
 πρὸς Γοργόνεια πεδία Κισθήνης, ἵνα
 αἱ Φορκίδες ναίουσι θηναῖαι κόραι
 795 τρεῖς κυκνόμορφοι, κοινὸν ὅμμ' ἐκτημέναι,
 μονόδοντες,² ἃς οὐθ' ἥλιος προσδέρκεται
 ἀκτῖσιν οὐθ' ἡ νύκτερος μήνη ποτέ.
 πέλας δ' ἀδελφαὶ τῶνδε τρεῖς κατάπτεροι,
 800 δρακοντόμαλλοι Γοργόνες βροτοστυγεῖς,
 ἃς θνητὸς οὐδεὶς εἰσιδὼν ἔξει πνοάς.
 τοιοῦτο μὲν σοι τοῦτο φρούριον λέγω·
 ἄλλην δ' ἄκουσον δυσχερῇ θεωρίαν·
 ὀξυστόμους³ γὰρ Ζηνὸς ἀκραγεῖς κύνας
 γρύπας φύλαξαι, τόν τε μουνῶπα⁴ στρατὸν
 805 Ἀριμασπὸν ἵπποβάμον', οἱ χρυσόρρυτον
 οἰκοῦσιν ἀμφὶ νᾶμα Πλούτωνος πόρου.⁵
 τούτοις σὺ μὴ πέλαζε. τηλουργὸν δὲ γῆν
 ἤξεις, κελαινὸν φύλον, οἱ πρὸς ἡλίου
 ναίουσι πηγαῖς, ἔνθα ποταμὸς Αἰθίοψ.
 810 τούτου παρ' ὄχθας ἔρφ', ἕως ἂν ἐξίκη
 καταβασμόν, ἔνθα Βιβλίνων⁶ ὀρῶν ἄπο
 ἴησι σεπτὸν Νεῖλος εὐποτον ρέος.
 οὗτός σ' ὀδώσει⁷ τὴν τρίγωνον ἐς χθόνα
 Νειλῶτιν, οὗ δὴ τὴν μακρὰν ἀποικίαν,
 815 Ἰοῖ, πέπρωται σοί τε καὶ τέκνοις κτίσαι.
 τῶν δ' εἴ τί σοι ψελλόν τε καὶ δυσεύρετον,
 ἐπαναδίπλαζε καὶ σαφῶς ἐκμάνθανε·
 ὁ σχολὴ δὲ πλείων ἢ θέλω πάρεστί μοι.

¹ πόντον M, πόντου recc. ² μονώδοντες M, μονόδοντες recc.

³ ὀξυστόμου with s superscr. M.

⁴ μουνῶπα M, μουνῶπαν m¹.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

walks the sun, crossing the surging sea until thou reachest the Gorgonean plains of Cisthene, where dwell the daughters of Phorceys, ancient maids, in number three, of shape like swans, possessing one eye amongst them and a single tooth; upon them neither doth the sun with his beams look down, nor ever the nightly moon. And near them are their winged sisters three, the snake-haired Gorgons, loathed of mankind, whom no one of mortal kind shall look upon and still draw breath. Such is the peril that I bid thee guard against. But now hearken to another and a fearsome spectacle. Beware the sharp-beaked hounds of Zeus that bark not, the gryphons, and the one-eyed Arimaspians folk, mounted on horses, who dwell about the flood of Pluto's¹ stream that flows with gold. Approach them not. Then thou shalt come to a far-off country of a swart race that dwells by the waters of the sun, where is the river Aethiop. Follow up along its banks till thou reach the cataract, where, from the Byblin mountains, Nile sends forth his hallowed and sweet stream. He will conduct thee on thy way to the three-angled land of Nilotis, where, at last, it is ordained for thee, O Io, and for thy children to found thy far-off colony.

If aught of this is indistinct to thee and hard to understand, do thou question me yet again, and gain a clear account; for I have more leisure than I crave.

¹ Πλούτων is an abbreviation of Πλουτοδότης or Πλουτοδοτήρ, "giver of wealth"; hence the apparent confusion with Πλούτος.

⁵ πόρον M, πόρου schol. M recce.

⁶ βιβλινων M, βυβλινων recce.

⁷ οὐτωςσε δώσει M changed to οὕτως σ' δώσει.

⁸ l. 818, omitted in M, supplied by m.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

820 εἰ μὲν τι τῇδε λοιπὸν ἢ παρειμένον
 ἔχεις γεγωνεῖν τῆς πολυφθόρου πλάνης,
 λέγ'· εἰ δὲ πάντ' εἴρηκας, ἡμῖν αὖ χάριν
 δὸς ἥνπερ¹ αἰτούμεσθα, μέμνησαι δέ που.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

825 τὸ πᾶν πορείας ἦδε τέρμ' ἀκήκοεν.
 ὅπως δ' ἂν εἰδῇ μὴ μάτην κλύουσά μου,
 ἃ πρὶν μολεῖν δεῦρ' ἐκμεμόχθηκεν φράσω,
 τεκμήριον τοῦτ' αὐτὸ δούς μύθων ἐμῶν.
 ὄχλον μὲν οὖν τὸν πλείστον ἐκλείψω λόγων,
 πρὸς αὐτὸ δ' εἰμι τέρμα σῶν πλανημάτων.
 830 ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἦλθες πρὸς Μολοσσὰ γάπεδα,²
 τὴν αἰπύνωτόν τ' ἀμφὶ Δωδώνην, ἵνα
 μαντεῖα θακός³ τ'⁴ ἐστὶ Θεσπρωτοῦ Διός,
 τέρας τ' ἄπιστον, αἱ προσήγοροι δρύες,
 ὑφ' ὧν σὺ λαμπρῶς κοῦδὲν αἰνικτηρίως
 835 προσηγορεύθης ἢ Διὸς κλεινὴ δάμαρ
 μέλλουσ' ἔσεσθαι· τῶνδε προσσαίνει σέ τι⁵;
 ἐντεῦθεν οἰστρήσασα τὴν παρακτίαν
 κέλευθον ᾗξας πρὸς μέγαν κόλπον Ῥέας,
 ἀφ' οὗ παλιμπλάγκτοισι χειμάζῃ δρόμοις·
 840 χρόνον δὲ τὸν μέλλοντα πόντιος μυχός,
 σαφῶς ἐπίστασ', Ἴόνιος κεκλήσεται,⁶
 τῆς σῆς πορείας μνήμα τοῖς πᾶσιν βροτοῖς.
 σημεῖά σοι τάδ' ἐστὶ τῆς ἐμῆς φρενός,
 ὥς δέρκεται πλέον τι τοῦ πεφασμένου.
 τὰ λοιπὰ δ' ὑμῖν τῇδέ τ' ἐς κοινὸν φράσω,
 845 ἐς ταυτὸν ἐλθὼν τῶν πάλαι λόγων ἵχνος.

¹ ἥντιν' : Herm.

² δάπεδα : Porson.

³ θακός : Brunck.

⁴ τ' added by m.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

CHORUS

If there be aught still remaining or passed over of her direful wandering that thou hast to tell, oh speak. But if thou hast told all, grant us in turn the favour we request—and belike thou hast it still in memory.

PROMETHEUS

She hath now heard the full end of her journeyings; yet that she may know that what she hath heard from me was no vain tale, I will describe the toils she has endured ere she came hither, giving this as a sure proof of my account.

Yet most of the weary tale I shall leave out and come to the very close of thy wanderings.

For when thou didst reach the Molossian plains and the sheer ridge that encircles Dodona, where is the prophetic seat of Thesprotian Zeus and that marvel, passing all belief, the talking oaks, by which thou clearly, and in no riddling terms, wast saluted as the renowned spouse of Zeus that was to be (does aught of this make appeal to thee?), thence, stung by the gad-fly, thou didst rush along the pathway by the shore to the great gulf of Rhea, wherefrom thou art tossed in backward-wandering course; and for all time to come a recess of the sea, be well assured, shall bear the name *Ionian*, as a memorial of thy crossing unto all mankind.

These, then, are the tokens to thee of my understanding, to show that it discerneth more than has been made manifest. The rest I shall declare to you and her in common, returning to the track of my former tale.

⁵ προσαίν, εἰς. τί M, προσάινει σίτι and (marg.) σ' ἔτι m¹,
προσάινει σέ τι recs. ⁶ κληθήσεται M, κεκλήσεται recs.

ἔστιν πόλις Κάνωβος ἐσχάτῃ χθονός,
 Νείλου πρὸς αὐτῷ στόματι καὶ προσχώματι·
 ἐνταῦθα δὴ σε Ζεὺς τίθησιν¹ ἔμφρονα
 ἐπαφῶν ἀταρβεῖ χειρὶ καὶ θιγῶν μόνον.
 850 ἐπώννυμον δὲ τῶν Διὸς γεννημάτων
 τέξεις κελαινὸν Ἑπαφον, ὃς καρπώσεται
 ὄσπην πλατύρρους Νεῖλος ἀρδεύει χθόνα·
 πέμπτη δ' ἀπ' αὐτοῦ γέννα πεντηκοντάπαις²
 855 πάλιν πρὸς Ἄργος οὐχ ἑκοῦσ' ἐλεύσεται
 θηλύσπορος,³ φεύγουσα συγγενῇ γάμον
 ἀνειψιῶν· οἱ δ' ἐπτοημένοι φρένας,
 κίρκοι πελειῶν οὐ μακρὰν λελειμμένοι,
 ἥξουσι θηρεύοντες⁴ οὐ θηρασίμους
 γάμους, φθόνον δὲ σωματῶν ἔξει θεός·
 860 Πελασγία δὲ δέξεται θηλυκτόνῳ
 Ἄρει, δαμέντων νυκτιφρουρήτῳ θράσει·
 γυνὴ γὰρ ἄνδρ' ἕκαστον αἰῶνος στερεῖ,
 δίθηκτον ἐν σφαγαῖσι βάψασα ξίφος
 τοιάδ' ἐπ'⁵ ἐχθροὺς τοὺς ἑμοὺς ἔλθοι Κύπρις.
 865 μίαν δὲ παίδων ἡμερος θέλξει τὸ μὴ
 κτεῖναι σύνευνον, ἀλλ' ἀπαμβλυνθήσεται⁶
 γνώμην· δυοῖν δὲ θάτερον βουλήσεται,
 κλύειν ἀναλκίς μᾶλλον ἢ μισαιφόνος·
 αὕτη κατ' Ἄργος βασιλικὸν τέξει γένος.
 870 μακροῦ λόγου δεῖ ταῦτ' ἐπεξελθεῖν τορῶς.
 σπορᾶς γε μὴν ἐκ τῆσδε φύσεται θραοὺς
 τόξοις κλεινός,⁷ ὃς πόνων ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐμέ

¹ τίθεισιν M, τίθησιν m.

² πεντηκοντόπαις M, πεντηκοντάπαις recs.

³ θηλυσπόρος M, θηλύσπορος recs.

⁴ θηρεύοντες most mss., θηρεύοντες HF¹.

⁵ ἐς most mss., ἐπ' PV.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

There ~~is~~ a city, Canobus, on the utmost verge of the land at the very mouth and silt-bar of the Nile. There at last Zeus restores thee to thy senses by the mere stroke and touch of his unterrifying hand. And thou shalt bring forth swart Épaphus,¹ thus named from the manner of Zeus' engendering; and he shall gather the fruit of all the land watered by the broad-flowing Nile. Fifth in descent from him, fifty maidens shall return to Argos, not of their own free choice, but fleeing marriage with their cousin kin; while these, their hearts ablaze with passion, like falcons following hard on doves, shall come in pursuit of wedlock unlawful to pursue; but God shall grudge them enjoyment of their brides. Pelasgian soil shall offer the maids a home, when, in the watches of the night, their husbands have been slain by a deed of daring wrought by women's murderous blows. For each bride shall reave her lord of life, dycing a two-edged sword in his blood—in such wise may Love come upon mine enemies! But one among the maidens shall love's desire so charm as not to slay her mate; rather the edge of her resolve shall be blunted; for of two evil names she will make her choice to be called coward rather than murderess. She it is that shall give birth in Argos to a royal line—to set this forth at large hath need of long discourse; of her seed, however, shall be born a man of daring, renowned with the bow, who shall deliver me from

¹ Épaphus, "Touch-born," named from the touch (ἐφαψis) of the hand of Zeus. Cp *Suppl.* 15, 18.

⁶ ἀπαμβλυθήσεται M, ἀπαμβλινθήσεται recs.

⁷ κλεινοῖς M, κλεινός recs.

AESCHYLUS

λύσει. τοιόνδε χρησμόν ἢ παλαιγενὴς
μήτηρ ἐμοὶ διήλθε Τιτανὶς Θέμις·
875 ὅπως δὲ χῶπῃ, ταῦτα δεῖ μακροῦ λόγου
εἰπεῖν, σύ τ' οὐδὲν ἐκμαθοῦσα κερδανεῖς.

ΙΩ

ἐλελεῦ, ἐλελεῦ,¹
ὑπό μ' αὖ σφάκελος καὶ φρενοπληγεῖς
μανίαι θάλπους', οἷστρου δ' ἄρδεις
880 χρίει μ' ἄπυρος·
κραδία² δὲ φόβῳ φρένα λακτίζει.
τροχοδινεῖται δ' ὄμμαθ' ἐλίγδην,
ἔξω δὲ δρόμου φέρομαι λύσσης
πνεύματι μάργῳ, γλώσσης ἀκρατῆς·
885 θολεροὶ δὲ λόγοι παίουσ'³ εἰκῇ
στυγνῆς πρὸς κύμασιν ἄτης.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἦ σοφὸς ἦ σοφὸς [ἦν]⁴ ὃς [στρ. α.
πρῶτος ἐν γνώμα τόδ' ἐβάστασε καὶ γλώσ-
σα διεμυθολόγησεν,
890 ὥς τὸ κηδεῦσαι καθ' ἑαυτὸν ἀριστεύει μακρῶ,
καὶ μήτε τῶν πλούτῳ διαθρυπτομένων
μήτε τῶν γέννα μεγαλυνομένων
ὄντα χερνήταν ἐραστεῦσαι γάμων.

μήποτε μήποτε μ', ὦ [ἀντ. α.
895 <πότνιαι>⁵ Μοῖραι, λεχέων Διὸς εὐνά-
τειραν ἴδοισθε πέλουσαν·
μηδὲ πλαθειήν γαμέτα⁶ τινὶ τῶν ἐξ οὐρανοῦ.
ταρβῶ γὰρ ἀστεργάνορα παρθενίαν

¹ ἐλελελελεῦ M : Ραυω.

² καρδία M, κραδία KN.

³ πταίουσ' M, παλουσ' recc.

⁴ [ἦν] N (Trichinius).

⁵ <πότνιαι> Winckelmann.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

these toils.¹ Such is the oracle recounted to me by my mother, Titan Themis, born of eld. The manner and the means—these need lengthy speech to tell, and to learn them all would not advantage thee in aught.

Io

Eleleu, Eleleu! Once again convulsive pain and frenzy, smiting my brain, inflame me. I am stung by the gad-fly's barb, unforged by fire. My heart in terror knocks at my ribs; my eyeballs roll wildly round and round. I am carried out of my course by a fierce blast of madness; over my tongue I've lost all mastery; and a stream of turbid words beats recklessly against the billows of dark destruction.

[*Exit*

CHORUS

Ah, sage, sage in sooth, was he who first pondered this truth in his mind and with his tongue gave it utterance—that to marry in one's own degree is far the best, and that neither among them that are puffed up by riches nor among them that are mighty in pride of birth should marriage be desired by him who toileth with his hands.

Never, oh never, august Fates, may ye behold me the partner of the bed of Zeus, and may I be wedded to no bridegroom who descends to me from heaven. For I shudder when I behold the loveless maiden-

¹ Heracles. Accidentally wounded by the poisoned arrow of this descendant of Io, the centaur Chiron offered himself as a substitute for Prometheus, thus fulfilling the prophecy contained in ll. 1026 ff. In a fragment of the *Prometheus Unbound* Heracles is represented as aiming his arrow against the eagle that feasted on the body of Prometheus (l. 1022).

⁶ πλαθείη ἐν γαμετῶ M, πλασθείην ἐν γαμέτῃ m¹ · Canter.

AESCHYLUS

900 εἰσορῶσ' Ἰοῦς ἀμαλαπτομέναν¹
 δυσπλάνοις² ἥρας ἀλατείαις πόνων.

905 ἔμοι δ' ὅτε³ μὲν ὀμαλὸς ὁ γάμος, [ἐπωδ.
 ἄφοβος· [οὐ δέδια·]⁴ μηδὲ κρεισσόνων θεῶν
 ἔρως ἄφυκτον ὄμμα προσδράκοι⁵ με.
 ἀπόλεμος ὅδε γ' ὁ πόλεμος, ἄπορα πόριμος·
 οὐδ' ἔχω τίς ἂν γενοίμαν·
 τὰν Διὸς γὰρ οὐχ ὀρῶ
 μῆτιν ὅπα φύγοιμ' ἂν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

910 ἦ μὴν ἔτι Ζεὺς, καίπερ αὐθάδης φρενῶν,⁶
 ἔσται ταπεινός, οἷον ἐξαρτύεται
 γάμον γαμῆν, ὃς αὐτὸν ἐκ τυραννίδος
 θρόνων τ'⁷ αἶστον ἐκβαλεῖ· πατρὸς δ'⁸ ἄρὰ
 Κρόνου τότ'⁹ ἤδη παντελῶς κρανθήσεται,
 ἦν ἐκπίτνων ἡρᾶτο δηναίων¹⁰ θρόνων.
 τοιῶνδε¹¹ μόχθων ἐκτροπὴν οὐδεὶς θεῶν
 δύναιτ' ἂν αὐτῷ πλήν ἐμοῦ δεῖξαι σαφῶς.
 915 ἐγὼ τὰδ' οἶδα χῶι τρόπῳ. πρὸς ταῦτά νυν¹²
 θαρσῶν καθήσθω τοῖς πεδαρσίοις κτύποις
 πιστός,¹³ τινάσσων τ' ἐν χεροῖν πύρπνου βέλος.
 οὐδὲν γὰρ αὐτῷ ταῦτ' ἐπαρκέσει τὸ μὴ οὐ
 πεσεῖν ἀτίμως πτώματ' οὐκ ἀνασχετά·
 920 τοῖον παλαιστὴν νῦν παρασκευάζεται
 ἐπ' αὐτὸς αὐτῷ, δυσμαχώτατον τέρας·
 ὃς δὴ κεραυνοῦ κρείσσον' εὐρήσει¹⁴ φλόγα,
 βροντῆς θ' ὑπερβάλλοντα καρτερὸν κτύπον·

¹ γάμῳ δαπτομέναν M: ἀμαλαπτομέναν Dindorf, after γ. ἀμαλ. Weil.

² δυσπλάγχνοις M, δυσπλάνοις rec.

³ ὅτι: Arnaldus.

⁴ [οὐ δέδια] Bothe.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

hood of Io, thus cruelly crushed by her toilsome wanderings sent of Hera.

But to me, when marriage is on equal terms, it is no cause of dread; and never may the love of the mightier gods cast on me its irresistible glance. That were indeed a war against which there is no warring, a source of resourceless misery; and I know not what would be my fate, for I do not see how I could escape the designs of Zeus.

PROMETHEUS

Yea, verily, the day will come when Zeus, howbeit stubborn of soul, shall be humbled, seeing that he purposeth a marriage that shall hurl him into oblivion from his sovereignty and throne; and then shall straightway be fulfilled to the uttermost the malison his father Cronus imprecated as he fell from his ancient throne. Deliverance from such ruin can no one of the gods show him clearly save only myself. I know it and the means thereof. So let him sit there in his assurance, putting his trust in the crash reverberating on high and brandishing in his hands his fire-breathing bolt. For naught shall these avail him against falling in ignominious and unendurable ruin. Such an adversary is he now preparing in his own despite, a prodigy irresistible, even one that shall discover a flame mightier than the levin and a deafening crash to out-roar

⁵ προσδάρκοι M, προσδέρκοι recc.: Salvinius.

⁶ αὐθάδης φρενῶν M and many recc., αὐθάδη φρονῶν m¹
QKL. ⁷ θρόνων M, θρόνων τ' recc.

⁸ πατρός τ' most MSS., πατρός δ' Q.

⁹ τόδ' M, τότ' m¹.

¹¹ τοιῶνδε M, τοιῶνδε m¹.

¹³ πιστῶς M, πιστὸς m.

¹⁰ δηναῖδν M, δηναίων m¹.

¹² νῦν M.

¹⁴ εὐρήσοι M, εὐρήσει recc.

AESCHYLUS

925 θαλασσίαν τε γῆς τινάκτειραν νόσον¹.
 τρίαιναν, αἰχμὴν τὴν Ποσειδῶνος, σκεδᾶ.
 πταίσας δὲ τῷδε πρὸς κακῶ² μαθήσεται
 ὅσον τό τ' ἄρχειν καὶ τὸ δουλεύειν δίχα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

σύ θην ἃ χρήζεις, ταῦτ' ἐπιγλωσσᾶ Διός.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἄπερ τελείται, πρὸς δ' ἃ βούλομαι λέγω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

930 καὶ προσδοκᾶν χρή δεσπόσειν Ζηνός τινα;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

καὶ τῶνδ' γ' ἔξει δυσλοφωτέρους πόνους.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πῶς δ'³ οὐχὶ ταρβείης τοιάδ' ἐκρίπτων ἔπη;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τί δ' ἂν⁴ φοβοίμην ᾧ θανεῖν οὐ μόρσιμον;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἀλλ' ἄθλον ἄν σοι τοῦδ' ἔτ'⁵ ἀλγίω πόροι.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

935 ὁ δ' οὖν ποιεῖτω· πάντα προσδοκητά μοι.

¹ νόσων changed to νόσον M But the passage is not free from corruption.

² κακῶν M, κακῶ m¹ recce.

³ πῶς M, πῶς δ' recce.

⁴ δαί M, δ' ἂν recce.

⁵ τοῦδ' γ' : Elmsley.

¹ The poet adopts the legend that Poseidon was a rival with Zeus for the hand of Thetis, of whose son it had been

PROMETHEUS BOUND

the thunder; a prodigy that shall shiver the trident, Poseidon's spear, that scourge of the sea and shaker of the land.¹ Then, wrecked upon this evil, Zeus shall learn how different it is to be a sovereign and a slave.

CHORUS

Sooth, 'tis only thine own desire that thou dost imprecate against Zeus.

PROMETHEUS

I speak what shall be brought to pass and, moreover, mine own desire.

CHORUS

Must we really look for one to gain mastery over Zeus?

PROMETHEUS

Aye, and he shall bear upon his neck pangs more galling than these of mine.

CHORUS

How is it that thou knowest no fear in uttering such taunts?

PROMETHEUS

Why should I fear whose fate is not to die?

CHORUS

But he might inflict on thee an ordeal more bitter still than this.

PROMETHEUS

Let him, for aught I care! I am prepared for all. prophesied by Themis that he should be mightier than his sire. The prophecy was fulfilled in the person of Peleus' son, Achilles.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

οἱ προσκυνοῦντες τὴν Ἀδράστειαν σοφοί.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

σέβου, προσεύχου, θῶπτε¹ τὸν κρατοῦντ' αἰεί.
 ἐμοὶ δ' ἔλασσον Ζηνὸς ἢ μηδὲν μέλει.
 δράτω, κρατεῖτω τόνδε τὸν βραχὺν χρόνον,
 940 ὅπως θέλει· δαρὸν γὰρ οὐκ ἄρξει θεοῖς.
 ἀλλ' εἰσορῶ γὰρ τόνδε τὸν Διὸς τρόχιν,
 τὸν τοῦ τυράννου τοῦ νέου διάκονον·
 πάντως τι καινὸν ἀγγελῶν ἐλήλυθεν.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

σὲ τὸν σοφιστήν, τὸν πικρῶς ὑπέρπικρον,
 945 τὸν ἐξαμαρτόντ' εἰς θεοὺς ἐφημέροισ²
 πορόντα τιμάς, τὸν πυρὸς κλέπτῃν λέγω·
 πατὴρ ἄνωγέ σ' οὔστινας κομπεῖς γάμους
 αὐδᾶν, πρὸς ὧν³ ἐκείνος ἐκπίπτει κράτους·
 καὶ ταῦτα μέντοι μηδὲν αἰνικτηρίως,
 950 ἀλλ' αὖθ' ἕκαστα φράζε⁴. μηδέ μοι διπλᾶς
 ὁδοὺς, Προμηθεῦ, προσβάλῃς· ὁρᾷς δ' ὅτι
 Ζεὺς τοῖς τοιούτοις οὐχὶ μαλθακίζεται.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

σεμνόστομός γε καὶ φρονήματος πλέως
 ὁ μῦθος ἐστίν, ὥς θεῶν ὑπηρέτου.
 955 νέον νέοι κρατεῖτε καὶ δοκεῖτε δὴ
 ναίειν ἀπενθῇ πέργαμ'. οὐκ ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐγὼ
 δισσοὺς τυράννους ἐκπεσόντας ἡσθόμην;
 τρίτον δὲ τὸν νῦν κοιρανοῦντ' ἐπόψομαι

¹ θῶπτε M, θώπευε m.

² τὸν ἡμέροισ M, ἐφημέροισ or τὸν ἐφημέροισ recc.

³ ὧν r' : Elmsley.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

CHORUS

Wise are they who do homage to Necessity.¹

PROMETHEUS

Worship, adore, and fawn upon whoever is thy lord. But I care for Zeus less than naught. Let him do his will, let him hold his power for his little day—since not for long shall he bear sway over the gods. But stay, for yonder I behold his lackey, the servitor of our new lord and master. Assuredly he hath come to harbinger some news.

[*Enter Hermes*

HERMES

To thee, the clever and crafty, bitter beyond all bitterness, who hast sinned against the gods in bestowing honours upon creatures of a day, and art the thief of fire—to thee I speak. The Father bids thee tell what marriage thou vauntest whereby he is to be hurled from power—and this, mark well, set forth in no riddling fashion, but point by point, as the case exactly stands; and do not impose upon me a double journey, Prometheus—thou seest Zeus is not appeased by dealing such as thine.

PROMETHEUS

Bravely spoken, in truth, and swollen with pride thy speech, as befits a minion of the gods. Young ye are, as young your power, and ye think forsooth that ye inhabit heights beyond the reach of grief. Have I not seen two sovereigns cast out from these heights? A third, the present lord, I shall live to see

¹ Adrasteia, “the inescapable,” another name of Nemesis, punished presumptuous words and excessive happiness.

⁴ ἑκάστα φράζε Μ, ἑκαστ' ἐκφράζε ρεcc.

AESCHYLUS

960 αἰσχιστα καὶ τάχιστα. μή τί σοι δοκῶ
ταρβεῖν ὑποπτήσσειν τε τοὺς νέους θεούς;
πολλοῦ γε καὶ τοῦ παντός ἐλλείπω. σὺ δὲ¹
κέλευθον ἥνπερ ἦλθες ἐγκόνει πάλιν·
πεύσῃ γὰρ οὐδὲν ὦν ἀνιστορεῖς ἐμέ.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

965 τοιοῖσδε μέντοι καὶ πρὶν αὐθαδίσμασιν
ἐς τάσδε σαυτὸν πημονὰς καθώρμισας.²

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τῆς σῆς λατρείας τὴν ἐμὴν δυσπραξίαν,
σαφῶς ἐπίστασ', οὐκ ἂν ἀλλάξαιμ' ἐγώ.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

³κρεῖσσον γὰρ οἶμαι τῇδε λατρεύειν πέτρα
ἢ πατρὶ φῦναι⁴ Ζηνὶ πιστὸν⁵ ἄγγελον.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

970 οὕτως ὑβρίζειν τοὺς ὑβρίζοντας χρεών.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

χλιδᾶν ἔοικας τοῖς παροῦσι πράγμασι.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

χλιδῶ; χλιδῶντας ὦδε τοὺς ἐμούς ἐγώ
ἐχθροὺς ἴδοιμι· καὶ σέ δ' ἐν τούτοις λέγω.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

ἦ καὶ μὲ γάρ τι συμφοραῖς ἐπαιτιᾷ;

¹ δὲ M, γε recc.

² καθώρ οσας (ο made from ι or ω) M, καθώρμισας recc.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

cast out in ruin most shameful and most swift. Dost think I quail, perchance, and cower before these upstart gods? Far from it—nay, not at all. But scurry thee back the way thou camest; for thou shalt learn naught whereof thou questionest me.

HERMES

Yet it was by like proud wilfulness before, too, that thou didst bring thyself to this harbour of distress.

PROMETHEUS

For thy servitude, rest thee sure, I'd not barter my hard lot, not I.

HERMES

Better, no doubt, to serve this rock than be the trusted messenger of Father Zeus!

PROMETHEUS

Such is the proper style for the insolent to offer insult.

HERMES

Methinks thou revellest in thy present plight.

PROMETHEUS

I revel? Oh, that I might see mine enemies revelling thus! And thee, too, I count among them.

HERMES

What! Thou blamest me in some wise for thy calamities?

³ ll. 968-969 given to Hermes by Tyrwhitt, Erfurdt, to Prometheus by M.

⁴ φῆναι mss. except Lips.² (φῶναι).

⁵ πιστόν δ' (γ' m¹) M, πιστόν recs.

AESCHYLUS

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

975 ἀπλῶ λόγῳ τοὺς πάντας ἐχθαίρω θεούς,
ὅσοι παθόντες εὖ κακοῦσί μ' ἐκδίκως.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

κλύω σ' ἐγὼ μεμηνότ' οὐ σμικρὰν¹ νόσον.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

νοσοῖμ' ἄν, εἰ νόσημα τοὺς ἐχθροὺς στυγεῖν.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

εἴης φορητὸς οὐκ ἄν, εἰ πράσσοις καλῶς.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

980 <ᾧμοι.>²

ΕΡΜΗΣ

ᾧμοι; τόδε Ζεὺς τοῦπος οὐκ ἐπίσταται.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἀλλ' ἐκιδιδάσκει πάνθ' ὁ γηράσκων χρόνος.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

καὶ μὴν σύ γ' οὐπω σωφρονεῖν ἐπίστασαι.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

σέ γὰρ προσηύδων οὐκ ἂν ὄνθ' ὑπηρέτην.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

ἐρεῖν ἔοικας οὐδὲν ὦν χρήζει πατήρ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

985 καὶ μὴν ὀφείλων γ' ἂν τίνωιμ' αὐτῷ χάριν.

¹ μικρὰν : Brunck.

² ΠΡ. ᾧμοι. 'ΕΡ. τόδε . . . ἐπίσταται : Lachmann.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

PROMETHEUS

In one word, I hate all the gods that received good at my hands and with ill requite me wrongfully.

HERMES

Thy words declare thee stricken with no slight madness.

PROMETHEUS

Mad I may be—if it is madness to loathe one's enemies

HERMES

Thou wouldst be unbearable wert thou prosperous.

PROMETHEUS

Alas !

HERMES

“ Alas ” ? That is a word unknown to Zeus.

PROMETHEUS

But ever-ageing Time teaches all things.

HERMES

Aye, but thou at least hast not yet learned to keep a sober mind.

PROMETHEUS

Else then I had not been addressing thee, an underling.

HERMES

It seems thou wilt answer naught that the Father demands.

PROMETHEUS

Aye, truly, I am his debtor that I should repay favour unto him.

AESCHYLUS

ΕΡΜΗΣ

ἐκερτόμησας δῆθεν ὥς παῖδ' ὄντα με.¹

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

οὐ γὰρ σὺ παῖς τε κᾶτι τοῦδ' ἀνούστερος
εἰ προσδοκᾷς ἐμοῦ τι πεύσεσθαι² πάρα;
οὐκ ἔστιν αἴκισμ' οὐδὲ μηχανήμ' ὅτῳ
990 προτρέψεται³ με Ζεὺς γεγωνήσαι τάδε,
πρὶν ἂν χαλασθῇ δεσμὰ λυμαντήρια.
πρὸς ταῦτα ῥιπτέσθω μὲν αἰθαλοῦσσα⁴ φλόξ,
λευκοπτέρῳ δὲ νιφάδι καὶ βροντήμασι
χθονίοις κυκάτω πάντα καὶ ταρασσέτω·
995 γνάμψει⁵ γὰρ οὐδὲν τῶνδέ μ' ὥστε καὶ φρόσαι⁶
πρὸς οὗ χρεῶν νιν ἐκπεσεῖν τυραννίδος.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

ὄρα νυν' εἴ σοι ταῦτ' ἄρωγὰ φαίνεται.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ὦπται⁸ πάλαι δὴ καὶ βεβούλευται τάδε.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

1000 τόλμησον, ὦ μάταιε, τόλμησόν ποτε
πρὸς τὰς παρούσας πημονὰς ὀρθῶς φρονεῖν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ὀχλεῖς μάτην με κῦμ' ὅπως παρηγορῶν.
εἰσελθέτω σε μήποθ'⁹ ὥς ἐγὼ Διὸς
γνώμην φοβηθεῖς θηλύνους γενήσομαι,

¹ ὥς παῖδά με M, ὥς παῖδ' ὄντα με recs.

² πενσεῖσθαι MPQN, πεύσεσθαι recs.

³ προστρέψεται M, προτρέψεται m⁷.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

HERMES

Thou girdest at me as though, forsooth, I were a child.

PROMETHEUS

And art thou not a child and even more witless than a child if thou expectest to learn aught from me? There is no torment or device by which Zeus shall induce me to utter this until these injurious fetters be loosed. So then, let his blazing levin be hurled, and with the white wings of the snow and thunders of earthquake let him confound the reeling world. For naught of this shall bend my will even to tell at whose hands he is fated to be hurled from his sovereignty.

HERMES

Look thee now whether this course seems to profit thee.

PROMETHEUS

Long ago hath this my course been foreseen and resolved.

HERMES

Bend thy will, perverse fool, oh bend thy will at last to wisdom in face of thy present sufferings.

PROMETHEUS

In vain thou troublest me, as though it were a wave thou wouldst persuade. Never think that, through terror at the will of Zeus, I shall become

¹ αἰθάλουσα M, αἰθάλλουσα recs.: Canter.

⁵ γνάψει M, γνάμψει m.

⁶ φράσειν M, φράσαι recs.

⁷ γύν M.

⁸ ὦ παῖ M, ὦπται schol. M and recs.

⁹ μηπάθ' M, μηπῶθ' m¹ recs.

AESCHYLUS

καὶ λιπαρήσω τὸν μέγα στυγούμενον¹
 1005 γυναικομίμοις ὑπτιάσμασιν χερῶν
 λῦσαί με δεσμῶν τῶνδε· τοῦ παντὸς δέω.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

λέγων ἔοικα πολλὰ καὶ μάτην ἐρεῖν·²
 τέγγῃ γὰρ οὐδὲν οὐδὲ μαλθάσση λιταῖς
 ἐμαῖς· δακῶν δὲ στόμιον ὡς νεοζυγῆς
 1010 πῶλος βιάζῃ καὶ πρὸς ἡνίας μάχῃ.
 ἅτὰρ σφοδρύνῃ γ' ἄσθενεῖ σοφίσματι·
 αὐθαδία γὰρ τῷ φρονούντι μὴ καλῶς
 αὐτὴ καθ' αὐτὴν οὐδενὸς μείζον σθένει.
 σκέψαι δ', ἔαν μὴ τοῖς ἐμοῖς πεισθῆς λόγοις,
 1015 οἷός σε χειμῶν καὶ κακῶν τρικυμία
 ἔπεισ' ἄφυκτος³· πρῶτα μὲν γὰρ ὀκρίδα
 φάραγγα βροντῇ καὶ κεραυνία φλογὶ
 πατὴρ σπαράξει τήνδε, καὶ κρύψει δέμας
 τὸ σόν, πετραία δ' ἀγκάλη σε βαστάσει.
 1020 μακρὸν δὲ μῆκος ἐκτελευτήσας χρόνου
 ἄψορρον ἤξεις εἰς φάος· Διὸς δέ τοι
 πτηνὸς κύων, δαφαινὸς αἰετός, λάβρως
 διαρταμήσει σώματος μέγα ῥάκος,
 ἄκκλητος ἔρπων δαιταλεὺς πανήμερος,
 1025 κελαινόβρωτον δ' ἥπαρ ἐκθοινήσεται.
 τοιοῦδε μόχθου τέρμα μὴ τι⁴ προσδόκα,
 πρὶν ἂν θεῶν τις διάδοχος τῶν σῶν πόνων
 φανῇ, θελήσῃ τ' εἰς ἀναύγητον μολεῖν
 "Αἰδην κνεφαῖά τ' ἀμφὶ Ταρτάρου βάθῃ.
 1030 πρὸς ταῦτα βούλευ'· ὥς ὃδ' οὐ πεπλασμένος
 ὁ κόμπος, ἀλλὰ καὶ λίαν εἰρημένος⁵.

¹ στυγόμενον M, στυγούμενον m¹.

² ἀλλ' ἐρεῖν μάτην M marg.

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womanish and, with hands upturned, aping woman's ways, shall importune my greatly hated foe to release me from these bonds. I am far, far from that.

HERMES

Methinks with my much speaking I but speak in vain ; for thou art not soothed nor art thou softened by my entreaties. Thou dost take the bit in thy teeth like a new-harnessed colt and art restive and strugglest against the reins. Yet 'tis a paltry device that prompts thy vehemence, for in the foolish-minded mere self-will of itself availeth less than aught at all. But if thou wilt not be won to belief by my words, bethink thee what a tempest and a towering wave of woe shall break upon thee past escape. First, the Father will shatter this jagged cliff with thunder and lightning-flame, and will entomb thy frame, while the rock shall still hold thee clasped in its embrace. But when thou hast completed a long stretch of time, thou shalt come back again to the light. Then verily the winged hound of Zeus, the ravening eagle, coming an unbidden banqueter the whole day long, with savage appetite shall tear thy body piecemeal into great rents and feast his fill upon thy liver till it be black with gnawing.

Look for no term of this thine agony until some god appear to take upon himself thy woes and of his own free will descend into the sunless realm of Death and the dark deeps of Tartarus.

Therefore advise thee, since this is no counterfeited vaunting but utter sooth ; for the mouth of

³ ἀφύκτως M, ἀφυκτος m¹ recs.

⁴ τοί M, τι recs.

⁵ λείαν εἰρημένον (ν) changed to λαν εἰρημένον M.

AESCHYLUS

1035 ψευδηγορεῖν γὰρ οὐκ ἐπίσταται στόμα
τὸ Δῖον, ἀλλὰ πᾶν ἔπος τελεῖ. σὺ δὲ
πάπταινε καὶ φρόντιζε, μηδ' αὐθαδίαν
εὐβουλίας ἀμείνον'¹ ἡγήσῃ ποτέ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἡμῖν μὲν Ἑρμῆς οὐκ ἄκαιρα φαίνεται
λέγειν· ἄνωγε γάρ σε τὴν αὐθαδίαν
μεθέντ' ἐρευνᾶν τὴν σοφὴν εὐβουλίαν.
πιθοῦ²· σοφῶ γὰρ αἰσχροὺς ἐξαμαρτάνειν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

1040 εἰδότι τοί μοι τάσδ' ἀγγελίας
ὄδ' ἐθώυξεν· πάσχειν δὲ κακῶς
ἐχθρὸν ὑπ' ἐχθρῶν οὐδὲν αἰεκές.
πρὸς ταῦτ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ ῥιπτέσθω³ μὲν
πυρὸς ἀμφήκης βόστρυχος, αἰθὴρ δ'
1045 ἐρεθιζέσθω βροντῇ σφακέλῳ τ'
ἀγρίων ἀνέμων· χθόνα δ' ἐκ πυθμένων
αὐταῖς ῥίζαις πνεῦμα κραδαίνοι,
κύμα δὲ πόντου τραχεῖ ῥοθίῳ
συγχώσειεν τῶν⁴ οὐρανίων
1050 ἄστρον διόδους· εἷς τε κελαιὸν
Τάρταρον ἄρδην ῥίψειε δέμας
τοῦμόν ἀνάγκης στερραῖς δίναις·
πάντως ἐμέ γ' οὐ θανατώσει.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

1055 τοιάδε μέντοι τῶν φρενοπλήκτων
βουλεύματ' ἔπη τ' ἔστιν ἀκοῦσαι.
τί γὰρ ἐλλείπει μὴ <οὐ>⁵ παραπαίειν
ἢ τοῦδ' εὐχῇ⁶; τί χαλᾷ μανιῶν;

PROMETHEUS BOUND

Zeus knoweth not how to utter falsehood, but will bring to pass every word. Do thou consider warily and reflect, and never deem stubbornness better than wise counsel.

CHORUS

To us, at least, Hermes seemeth not to speak untimely; for he bids thee lay aside thy stubbornness and seek the good counsel of wisdom. Be advised! 'Tis shameful for the wise to persist in error.

PROMETHEUS

No news to me, in truth, is the message this fellow hath proclaimed so noisily. Yet for foe to suffer ill from foe is no disgrace. Therefore let the lightning's forked curl be cast upon my head and let the sky be convulsed with thunder and the wrack of savage winds; let the hurricane shake the earth from its rooted base, and let the waves of the sea mingle with their savage surge the courses of the stars in heaven; and let him lift me on high and hurl me down to black Tartarus with the swirling floods of stern Necessity: do what he will, *me* he shall never bring to death.

HERMES

Such indeed are the thoughts and the words one hears from men deranged. Wherein does his prayer fall short of raving? Wherein does he abate his

¹ ἀμεινον changed to ἀμεινον' M.

² πειθον M, πιθοῦ recc.

³ ἐπί μοι βίπτεισθω M, ἐπ' ἐμοί βίπτεισθω recc.

⁴ τῶν τ' most mss., τῶν BK¹. Cp. v.l. 421, 461, 700.

⁵ <οὐ> Wecklein.¹

⁶ ἦ (° added by m) τοῦδ' εὐτυχῇ M, εἰ τὰδ' marg. m¹: Winckelmann.

AESCHYLUS

1060 ἄλλ' οὖν ὑμεῖς γ' αἰ¹ πημοσύναις
 συγκαμνουςαὶ ταῖς τοῦδε τόπων
 μετὰ ποιῶν χωρεῖτ' ἐκ τῶνδε θοῶς,
 μὴ φρένας ὑμῶν ἡλιθιώσῃ
 βροντῆς μύκημ' ἀτέραμνον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

1065 ἄλλο τι φώνει καὶ παραμυθοῦ μ'
 ὃ τι καὶ πείσεις· οὐ γὰρ δὴ πού
 τοῦτό γε τλητὸν παρέσυρας ἔπος.
 πῶς με κελεύεις κακότητ' ἀσκεῖν;
 μετὰ τοῦδ' ὃ τι χρὴ πάσχειν ἐθέλω.
 τοὺς προδότας γὰρ μισεῖν ἔμαθον,
 1070 οὐκ ἔστι νόσος
 τῆσδ' ἦντιν' ἀπέπτυσσα μάλλον.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

1075 ἄλλ' οὖν μέμνησθ' ἀγῶ³ προλέγω
 μηδὲ πρὸς ἄτης θηραθεῖσαι
 μέμψησθε τύχην, μηδέ ποτ' εἴπηθ'
 ὥς Ζεὺς ὑμᾶς εἰς ἀπρόοπτον
 πῆμ' εἰσέβαλεν· μὴ δῆτ', αὐταὶ δ'
 ὑμᾶς αὐτάς. εἰδυῖαι γὰρ
 οὐκ ἐξαίφνης οὐδὲ λαθραίως
 εἰς ἀπέρατον⁴ δίκτυον ἄτης
 ἐμπλεχθήσεσθ' ὑπ' ἀνοίας.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

1080 καὶ μὴν ἔργῳ οὐκέτι μῦθος
 χθῶν σεσάλευται·
 βρυχία δ' ἡχὼ παραμυκᾶται
 βροντῆς, ἔλικες δ' ἐκλάμπουσι

PROMETHEUS BOUND

frenzy ²—But, at all events, do ye who compassionate his anguish, withdraw amain from this spot, lest the relentless roar of the thunder stun your senses.

CHORUS

Use some other strain and urge me to some other course wherein thou art e'en like to convince me. This utterance in thy flood of speech is, I trow, past all endurance. How dost thou charge me to practise baseness? With him I am content to suffer any fate; for I have learned to detest traitors, and there is no pest I abhor more than this.

HERMES

Nay then, bear my warning in memory and blame not your case when ye are caught in the toils of calamity; nor ever say that it was Zeus who cast you into suffering unforeseen. Not so, but blame yourselves. For well forewarned, and not at un-awares or secretly, shall ye be entangled in the inextricable net of calamity by reason of your folly.

[*Exit*

PROMETHEUS

Lo, now it hath passed from word to deed—the earth rocks, the echoing thunder-peal from the depths rolls roaring past me; the fiery wreathed

¹ γε · γ' αὖ Turn.

² πον most mss., ποι Ven. 3².

³ ἀτ' ἐγὼ most mss., ἀ ἐγὼ F¹: Porson.

⁴ ἀπέπατον M, ἀπέπαντον m¹ rece.

AESCHYLUS

- 1085 στεροπῆς ζάπυροι, στρόμβοι δὲ κόνιν
 εἰλίσσουσι¹. σκιρτᾷ δ' ἀνέμων
 πνεύματα πάντων εἰς ἄλληλα
 στάσιν ἀντίπνουν ἀποδεικνύμενα·
 ξυντετάρακται δ' αἰθήρ πόντῳ.
 τοιάδ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ ῥιπὴ Διόθεν
 1090 τεύχουσα φόβον στείχει φανερώς.
 ὦ μητρὸς ἐμῆς σέβας, ὦ πάντων
 αἰθὴρ κοινὸν φάος εἰλίσσων,²
 ἔσορᾷς μ' ὥς ἔκδικα πάσχω.

¹ ελίσσουσιν : Turn.

² εἰλίσσων : Turn.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

lightning-flashes flare forth, and whirlwinds toss the swirling dust ; the blasts of all the winds leap forth and set in hostile array their embattled strife ; the sky is confounded with the deep. Behold, this stormy turmoil advances against me, manifestly sped of Zeus to make me tremble. O holy mother mine, O thou firmament that dost revolve the common light of all, thou seest the wrongs I suffer !

*[Amid thunder and lightning Prometheus vanishes
from sight ; and with him disappear
the daughters of Oceanus*